



No. 65,468

FRIDAY JANUARY 5 1996

30



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five runners-up  
Details, PAGE 21

## Sex and the Showgirls

Why Hollywood  
eroticism  
fails at the  
box-office  
PAGE 26

The Tories'  
last hope?

Maurice Saatchi  
talks to  
Valerie Grove  
PAGE 13

Freud on Friday

Charity snooker's  
dream ticket:  
Clement Freud &  
Stephen Hendry  
PAGE 30

**City brokers stage revolt over plans for electronic trading system**

# London stock market chief is dismissed

By MELVYN MARCUS AND ALASDAIR MURRAY

**MICHAEL LAWRENCE**, the £342,000-a-year Chief Executive of the London Stock Exchange, was dismissed yesterday after a revolt by several powerful stockbroking firms.

The reason given by the Stock Exchange for the abrupt and unexpected dismissal of Mr Lawrence was a "loss of confidence". John Kemp-Welch, Chairman of the Stock Exchange, admitted that the departure of Mr Lawrence, the second chief executive to be sacked in two and a half years, was "undoubtedly a setback", although he hoped this would prove "temporary".

Mr Lawrence is understood to have been informed of the decision at a meeting with Mr Kemp-Welch which lasted less than half an hour yesterday morning. Mr Lawrence receives a basic salary of £240,000 and enjoys a one-year service contract. He received a £100,000 performance bonus last year.

Mr Kemp-Welch, the former senior partner of Cazenove, the City's most prestigious stockbroking house, will chair the Stock Exchange's executive committee pending the appointment of Mr Lawrence's successor.

Late last November, Mr Lawrence disclosed plans for the Stock Exchange to press ahead with the introduction of an electronic "order matching" system of share trading, despite bitter opposition from City market making firms.

Mr Lawrence described the development as a "very impor-

tant step for the Stock Exchange and for London as a financial centre" but it is no secret that his enthusiasm for competitive styles of trading was not shared by many Stock Exchange firms.

Major market making firms such as BZW, an offshoot of Barclays Bank, and Smith New Court, recently acquired by Merrill Lynch, the US stockbroking combine, had waged a campaign against electronic order matching.

It is believed that a delegation of Stock Exchange board members met Mr Kemp-Welch on Wednesday evening and delivered an ultimatum to the Stock Exchange chairman. The delegation is understood to have been drawn from the Stock Exchange's Senior Appointments and Remuneration Committee.

Mr Lawrence, a former Finance Director at Prudential, the insurance company, was appointed in February 1994 after the previous chief executive, Peter Rawlins, resigned following the £400 million Taurus trading system fiasco.

Mr Lawrence said last night: "I am disappointed to leave but I am happy with the programme of major initiatives and the excellent executive team. But the reforms must be allowed to continue unabated." Negotiations over compensation will start shortly. The Exchange has not ruled out the possibility that Mr Lawrence could receive a bonus for this year. Last night at his country home in

Cookham, Berkshire, which has a tennis court and swimming pool, his wife, Maureen, said: "He just came back at 4.30 this afternoon and said: 'I've been sacked. That's it. I did not get much chance to speak to him about it, because he had an engagement this evening and had to go out.'

Born into a lower middle class family in Harrow, North London, Mr Lawrence came from neither of the City's traditional backgrounds — working class and streetwise, or blue chip. He was educated at Watford grammar school and Exeter and Bristol universities, taking a first class degree in physics and a PhD in mathematical physics.

He became an accountant and was the Prudential Corporation's finance director when offered the Stock Exchange job at the age of 50. He and his wife run a private aviation company and a private property group. He sails with his family and drives a red Aston Martin which he bought from Rowan Atkinson, the comedian.

After yesterday's board meeting Mr Kemp-Welch said: "While Mr Lawrence's departure reflects the loss of confidence in him by the board, it does not imply any change in the Stock Exchange's policy. Our objective is to be the market of choice. To achieve that we have a large programme of work in train and this will be pursued vigorously." Mr Kemp-Welch emphasised that a steering committee had been formed to oversee the implementation of the decision taken at the Stock Exchange board meeting of 30 November, 1995, regarding the structure and regulation of the markets. That decision provides for the Exchange's service to include full electronic trading and order matching."

It was the Exchange's decision to press ahead with establishing a system of trading shares according to the number of orders placed rather than the existing system where dealers are forced to give a price before they know the size of order, that has proved particularly damaging to Mr Lawrence. Market makers have warned that it is a threat to the market's liquidity.

City reaction, page 19  
Pennington, page 21

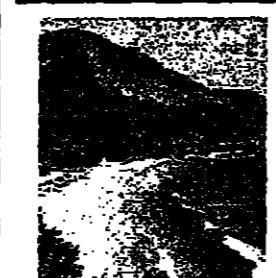
Michael Lawrence back home in Cookham, Berks, after his sudden dismissal



## Two held after teenager dies

Police have arrested two men in connection with the killing of teenager Anthony Erskine, who was kicked to death by a gang of youths after going to the aid of his father. Officers broke into a house near the teenager's home in Stratford-upon-Avon to detain them. The dead teenager's twin brother spoke yesterday of the family's grief and outrage at the killing.

SATURDAY IN THE TIMES



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## Thatcher joins attacks on RAF's Gulf War tactics

BY MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

**BARONESS THATCHER** has joined Britain's Gulf War commander in criticising the RAF's low-level bombing tactics during the 1991 conflict.

Lady Thatcher, who was no longer Prime Minister at the start of the coalition air campaign in January 1991, has disclosed that the loss of air crew deeply upset her and she had raised the matter with ministers.

In a four-part BBC documentary starting this Sunday and marking the fifth anniversary of the Gulf War, she says: "They had to go in low and we were losing a pilot a night. I got very upset and said that there's something wrong with the way we are doing this, and let those views be known."

Her comments echoed those of General Sir Peter de la Billière, the British forces commander in the Gulf, who says in the documentary that he was overruled when he tried to stop the low-level bombing. He told the Ministry of Defence: "I don't want to go on doing it."

Yesterday, angered by the criticisms of the bombing tactics, RAF chiefs called a press conference to deny the allegations that they had wasted lives by continuing with the low-level raids.

Four Tornados were lost in five nights of low-level bombing, with four members of the crews killed and four taken prisoner.

Air Chief Marshal Sir William Wratten, who was the UK air commander in the Gulf War, denied that he had been ordered by the Defence

Ministry to carry on with low-level bombing raids, despite the heavy losses. Sir William, who is now Commander-in-Chief RAF Strike Command, said he had been in touch with Sir Peter about the allegations. He said: "We were not held at low-level for longer than 1 as air commander felt we should be. I was not forbidden from changing anything. Low-level attacks stopped when we wanted them to."

He also said that, although he was always concerned about casualties, the losses on the first nights of the air campaign had not played a part in the decision to stop low-level bombing which was made after it became clear that the Iraqis were not going to launch large-scale air raids.

That made it unnecessary to

Continued on page 2, col 4

## Killing of head: boy is arrested

POLICE were last night questioning a 15-year-old schoolboy in connection with the murder of Philip Lawrence, the west London headmaster who was stabbed when he went to protect a pupil being attacked by a gang of youths outside his school (Stewart Tindall writes).

The arrest in Kentish Town was made after intensive investigations in north London. These centred on a gang thought to include young Filipinos, but police refused yesterday to confirm details of the boy or his background.

The boy is not a pupil of St George's Roman Catholic School in Maida Vale where Mr Lawrence, 48, was the headmaster. The school reopened yesterday and a spokesman said that children were coping well over the violent death of their head.

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## Scientists spend £750,000 on fruit pastilles

BY KATE ALDERTON

AFTER 115 years of sweet-making, scientists have been called in, with the aid of £750,000, to discover the secret behind the chewy Rowntree fruit pastille.

Nestlé's York-based research centre and the Applied Biology department at the city's university have joined forces in an attempt to find out just what makes the pastille, and other "secret" food products, taste so good. The pastille derives from a recipe in 1881 and was developed by trial and error. But now a

team of scientists are investigating how the pastille achieves its texture. In the process, it is being subjected to "nuclear magnetic resonance" and "capillary electrophoresis", as well as microsampling, to study the pastille's biopolymer mixtures — starches, pectins and gelatins — and how they react with each other and in the mouth.

Dr Steve Whitehouse, a senior scientist at Nestlé, said the making of the fruit pastille was an historical confectioner's art. "This project enables us to look at the process closely and achieve a greater

understanding. We are not looking to change the sweet but any product is forever under review with the object of improving it."

Dr Julian White of York University, said Unilever and three other companies were involved in the research, which is part-funded by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

"This is not simply about the pastille," he said. "But by understanding the science involved, various food producers will be able to develop different types of food with different types of texture."

## Internet Times

The Internet edition of The Times is now available on <http://www.thetimes.co.uk>

## South Africans take Test series

England's latest batting collapse cost them the final Test, enabling South Africa to take the five-match series. England were all out for 157 and South Africa, needing only 67 to win, got the runs without losing a wicket.

Page 36

Page 36

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Page 36

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Continued on page 2, col 4

Page 36

## INTERNATIONAL CALLERS TELEPHONE UK +44 171 225 2410

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INTERNATIONAL

# Blair plays new economy card to trump Tory appeal

TONY BLAIR is determined not to be out-maneuvred by the Tories on the economy. His Tokyo speech is designed to counter the Tories' attempt to portray themselves as the only party that can ensure that Britain is internationally competitive — the enterprise centre of Europe in the often-repeated refrain of the past few months.

Ministers argue that, however clumsy, this is a unifying theme that will differentiate

the Tories from Labour, with its high tax and spending past and support for a minimum wage and the European social chapter. The election will, on this view, turn on which party offers the best chance of competing with the "Asian tigers".

Mr Blair's attempt to trump this appeal is starting to anyone accustomed to the language of "old" Labour. The globalisation of the world economy is seen as

both inevitable and desirable. Not only is inward investment embraced, but the Labour leader warns against "inflexibility in labour markets", promises that there will be no repeat of the main elements of the 1980s trade union legislation, and accepts that tax rates need to be fixed to attract highly skilled labour from abroad. Labour's

commitment to the social chapter is brushed aside as merely an opportunity to influence discussions. Labour, he admits, "took far too long in the 1980s to face up to the need for change". What was wrong was that the changes then did not go far enough.

The reduction of barriers, the opening up of markets

and tax reductions, are only the first phase. What is now needed, he says, is a second phase to make Britain more competitive and attractive to inward investors. This concentrates on education and training on a lifelong basis, private and public sector co-operation to revitalise infrastructure and increase innovation.

This is common ground with the Tories on objectives — as shown by the private

finance initiative and the work of Michael Heseltine's competitiveness unit. The differences are about which party is more credible to deliver.

Mr Blair also emphasised the social implications of these economic upheavals, avoiding division between "a relatively secure and prosperous top part and an unskilled, undereducated bottom part". Hence, he stresses that competitiveness must be linked to

social cohesion and fairness "only in this way can we persuade our people to live and thrive in the new global economy". Social exclusion should be tackled by education reform and "welfare to work" changes to the benefit system.

The Government is vulnerable because its initiatives have appeared piecemeal and there has been little attempt to articulate an overall response to these worries

over insecurity. In tactical terms, Mr Blair's speech is intended to head off government claims that the economy is strong again.

The Labour view will be that the economy is not doing as well as it should, and the benefits are not being distributed fairly. In past elections, Labour has been defensive. It is now claiming the Tories' ground.

PETER RIDDELL

## RIDDELL ON POLITICS

## Labour examines plans to privatise the welfare state

BY NICHOLAS WOOD, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

LABOUR leaders are to examine plans for privatising the £90 billion a year welfare budget. Workers and their employers could end up funding savings schemes that would cover the cost of pensions, unemployment, sickness benefit and long-term nursing care.

This would mean shifting at least part of the burden of the welfare state from the taxpayer to families and private firms. The Government would remain the insurer of last resort for poor people.

The ideas have been floated by the Adam Smith Institute, a free-market think-tank normally associated with the Conservatives. While they appear to have found little favour with Peter Lilley, the Social Security Secretary, they have struck a chord with Tony Blair, the Labour leader. He has told Chris Smith, the

Shadow Social Security Secretary, to "think the unthinkable" in reviewing the welfare system, which now consumes one-third of public spending.

The approach could enable a Labour government to cut taxes significantly. However, the Labour Left will be suspicious of anything smacking of privatising the welfare state.

Mr Smith will fly to Singapore this weekend for talks about the country's privately-funded safety net, which has been operating successfully for 40 years. He will study Singapore's Central Provident Fund (CPF) under which employees and firms each contribute 20 per cent of an individual's salary.

Mr Smith, who will meet Mr Blair in Singapore on Monday after the Labour leader's visit to Japan, said he was attracted to some of

Singapore's ideas, particularly on pension provision and house purchase. Mr Smith is to see Lee Boon Yang, the Minister for Labour.

Mr Smith said: "The idea of the fund, which is a fund underpinned by the government but in which the individual has their own personal stake, seems to me worth having a look at."

The CPF builds up individual savings accounts which a worker can invest and use for specified welfare purposes. The savings become freely available at the age of 55, on retirement, disablement or death and can be passed on to the next generation. They generate a large potential source of investment for industry and commerce.

Mr Smith said that he did not envisage such funds playing a role in paying for the National Health Service. But he did think that they might have a role as an alternative to private pensions and the much diminished State Earnings-Related Pension Scheme.

He also thought they could be useful in giving people a capital asset to be used as security in borrowing money to buy a house. Mr Smith added that he would reserve judgment on other potential applications of such funds until he had had a chance to study them further. "I am not ruling anything out, but at this stage I am not ruling it in either."

Despite anecdotal evidence suggesting that local people wanted a chance to pass judgment on the MPs' defection, the Liberal Democrats closed the door on such a move. Willie Rennie, the Liberal Democrat campaigner for Devon and Cornwall, said there had been no strong grassroots call for a by-election.

That decision took some time to evolve. On the fifth night of the air campaign, January 21, a Tornado hit the ground after coming out of

Continued from page 1

continued bombing the airfields with the RAF's JP233 runway-denial bomblets. The other reasons for the change, he said, were the intensity of Iraq's air defences and the need to destroy Iraqi Scud missile launchers.

Sir William said it was on "day four" of the air campaign that he discussed the low-level tactics with his detachment commanders and with Air Chief Marshal Sir Patrick Hine, Britain's joint forces commander, and agreed that the Tornados should switch to medium-level bombing.

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low-level attack, killing the two members of the crew. Only one Tornado was lost during JP233 low-level attacks. The four others lost at low level had dropped 1,000lb

bombs. After a week of low-level operations, the Tornados spent the rest of the air campaign at medium-level.

Two Tornados were lost during the latter stage of the

campaign. In all, the RAF lost six Tornados and the Americans lost 27 aircraft. Sir William was aware of a letter written by a senior RAF officer in the Ministry calling for the low-level raids to continue. That irritated him, but "it was not a form of pressure".

Flight Lieutenant John Nichol, who was one of two Tornado crewmen taken prisoner on January 17 after his aircraft was hit by a Sam missile, said yesterday that more would have been shot down if they had attacked from higher levels. He said: "We were attacking the most heavily defended airfields and the JP233 was the only weapon we had. It has to be released at low-level and that is what we were trained to do."

Nichol, left, and John Peters, also captured, on Iraqi TV

## Thatcher joins attack on RAF tactics

**Continued from page 1**

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CASES of asthma have doubled among schoolchildren in five years, contrary to claims that the disease peaked in the mid-1980s, a study shows Jeremy Laurance writes.

One in five children in Aberdeen was diagnosed with asthma in 1994 compared with one in ten in 1989. The rise in eczema has been less steep — from one in eight in 1989 to one in six in 1994. Wheezing and other allergic disorders have also increased sharply according to the survey, one of the world's longest, which began in 1964.

The researchers, from the Royal Aberdeen Children's Hospital, semi-questionnaires to the parents of 4,000 children aged from eight to 13.

The results, published in the *British Medical Journal*, showed increases in the prevalence of wheezing, asthma and eczema, but not of hayfever.

The authors suggest a lack of anti-oxidants in diet — vitamins and minerals obtained chiefly from fruit and vegetables — or changes in the indoor environment or lifestyle are most likely to blame.

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Schools facing teacher shortage

Stratford-upon-Avon shocked by gang killing of teenager who went to father's defence

# Brutal reminder for the tourist town that forgot murder existed

By CAROL MIDGLEY AND JOANNA BALE



**THE** killing of a young man by a gang of youths in Stratford-upon-Avon illustrates the undercurrent of crime stirring beneath the surface of the Warwickshire town's genteel respectability, according to residents.

Anthony Erskine, 19, was beaten and kicked to death in the front garden of his home on the Clifton estate by youths who were taunting his father. His face was kicked with such ferocity that neighbours were unable to give him the kiss of life.

Anthony, a stockroom assistant at Debenhams in Stratford, was attacked after going to the aid of his father Harry, 52, who was being harassed by a group of young men. The family had suffered months of racist abuse from a hardcore of youths for some time because their mother, Dorothy, was born in Malta.

Policemen working on the case, including one who has served in the area for 20 years, cannot remember the last time there was a murder in the town. Violent crime in Stratford is below the national average — 3.3 violent crimes per thousand people every year — against a national average of 5.9.

But residents said yesterday that on some housing estates, away from the picturesquely towncentre and prosperous theatreland, many people live in fear of small groups of bored youths who terrorised their neighbourhoods.

Every year the town plays host to 2.5 million visitors who see a peaceful market town lined with timber-framed houses and souvenir shops bulging with Shakespeare memorabilia. Yet beneath this affluent facade is crime on a scale that blights the lives of residents.

Stratford-on-Avon District Council is planning to spend £250,000 on closed-circuit televisions in the town centre to combat the drunken gangs who use it as a stage for fights before closing time.

Jean Holder, leader of the Liberal Democrat-controlled council, said: "People from outside don't see that underneath the veneer of prosperity there is a very different side to Stratford. We have our fair share of trouble and there are

areas of deprivation and unemployment. Half the problem is that there are no decent jobs for young people, only menial low-paid ones in hotel kitchens."

Jean Greaves, 69, who has lived on the Clifton estate all her life, said violence had soared there over the last decade. "People from outside Stratford would never believe this goes on but this is what the tourists don't see. There's a lot of unemployment and I think that's what causes it."

Anthony's twin went yesterday as he described his "kind and gentle" brother. Ian Erskine vowed never to celebrate his birthday again as a mark of respect for his twin. With tears streaming down his face he said: "Anthony and I were very close. The family are devastated at his sudden and unnecessary death which has completely destroyed us."

At one stage Ian faltered with his prepared statement to a press conference because he was so overcome by grief. However, he recovered his composure and begged the local community to provide information to help police convict the killers. "This is not a petty crime. My brother was murdered. No one deserves loyalty after that," he said. "I was closer to him than the others. When Anthony went out I would always wait up for him and he always did the same for me."

Det Supt Tony Bayliss of Warwickshire police described the attack as horrific. He said: "Here we have a man in his fifties remonstrating with youths who had been apparently abusing him and his family. Then the son goes out to back up his father and is kicked and punched to death. This is yet another example of the violence pervading our society. It is another violent

murder for no apparent reason. The dead man's elder brother Gary, 22, added: "Anthony never hurt anybody in his life."

"He had been picked on before but he always took the peaceful option and tried to talk his way out of it, to try to calm things down."

One neighbour, who has known the family since they moved into their neat council-built 1960s house 19 years ago when Mrs Erskine was pregnant with the twins, described Anthony as "a fantastic lad". She was greeted by the sight of Anthony's body in the garden of the Erskines' home, covered with a white sheet, at 5.45pm on Thursday.

As police maintained a cordon around the house, Elizabeth Davidson, 52, said: "I went outside to see what had happened and the police were taking the family away. I said what's happened Dorothy? She said 'They've killed my Anthony'."

Heather Harrison, store manager for Debenhams in Stratford, said Anthony had been employed there 12 months ago because of his conscientious and enthusiastic nature. Early last year he was voted employee of the month by his colleagues. Mrs Harrison said: "We are absolutely devastated. Tony was an extremely hard-working young man. Nothing was too much trouble for him."

His former headmaster, Tim Sara, of St Benedict's Roman Catholic High School, Alesiter, said: "He left two years ago but I remember him very well because he was a

polite, sensitive, caring and unassuming boy who was very supportive of this school. He was a super pupil, a real asset to us."

Anthony's mother, a catering manager at the Moat House Hotel in the town, was said to be inconsolable at her son's death. Gaynor Taylor, a neighbour, told how Gary

Erskine had run to her home for help after the attack, which last only 60 seconds. She said: "When I got there, there was no pulse and his face was a mask of blood. His face had been so badly kicked in I couldn't give him mouth-to-mouth." She said there was a small group of youths who

stood on street corners and terrorised people walking past. "No one goes out at night now. They will shout at you and make fun of you as you walk past. There are a lot of people around here whose husbands or sons are in prison because of what they have done."

"Harry wouldn't have hurt a fly. They are a very nice family, very quiet and respectable but this is the treatment they get," she said. Another neighbour said: "The trouble is that, with Anthony's family being quiet like they are, they never fought back. They would just take the abuse."

PC Nick Stephens, a former community policeman for the estate, said: "The vast majority of people here are lovely. But there is a hardcore of youths. I would say no more than ten, who go round making trouble and it is the same faces time and time again."

Police arrested two men yesterday in connection with Anthony's murder. Officers broke into a house near the teenager's home shortly after 3pm and arrested the men. A 17-year-old youth arrested shortly after the incident has been released on bail but police are still appealing for witnesses.



Police stand outside the house where Anthony Erskine died. He was so badly kicked that neighbours were unable to give him the kiss of life

## Wine bottle may give clue to student's killer

By RICHARD DUCE

A RARE bottle of champagne could prove a vital clue in tracing the killer of the French student Celine Figard, police said yesterday.

Mme Figard, 19, accepted the bottle of Pascal Chretien champagne from its producer on her way through France before she arrived in England, hoping to spend Christmas with a relative. Only 60,000 bottles of the 1993 vintage were produced, none for export.

None of Celine's property was found with her body in a lay-by near Worcester on December 29 and police suspect that the bottle was taken by her killer and could even have been given away as a present.

Chief Superintendent John McCammon, the head of West Mercia CID who is leading the murder inquiry, said: "We want to hear from anybody who may have come across one of these bottles since December 19. Perhaps someone may have received one as a present or seen such a bottle during the Christmas celebrations."

He said police had estab-

lished that Guy Maillet, the French lorry driver who took Celine from her home in Haute-Saone to Folkestone, stopped at the champagne producers in Voigny, Aube, to buy 12 bottles.

One bottle was given to Mme Figard as a present and then placed either in her suitcase or knapsack. The champagne is

labeled "CHAMPAGNE PASCAL CHRETIEN VINTAGE 1993".

The champagne label

the strongest lead since police revealed Mme Figard was last seen on December 19 climbing into the cab of a white Mercedes lorry at Cheveley service station on the M4 in Berkshire. Police are still checking all 1,200 such cabs in Britain.

Police were yesterday investigating the claims of a French television station that a right-

hand drive Mercedes lorry had been found abandoned in central France, but could not comment until further inquiries were made.

Mr McCammon earlier dismissed speculation that a serial killer could be responsible for the death of Mme Figard, who had been strangled. "I would also stress that at this stage, there is no evidence whatsoever to link Celine's murder with any other investigations," he said.

But as he spoke the Royal Ulster Constabulary announced their officers would travel to Worcester to compare details with an unsolved murder in Northern Ireland. Inga Maria Hauser, 19, from Munich, was found dead with her neck broken in a forest in north Antrim eight years ago after she vanished while travelling through England and Scotland.

An RUC spokesman said yesterday: "We are not saying the murders of Celine and Inga Maria are identical, but the circumstances are somewhat similar."

## Fry agrees deal on walk-out

By DALYA ALBERGE

THE actor Stephen Fry, who walked out of the West End play *Cell Mates*, has agreed an out-of-court settlement with the show's producers.

Duncan Weldon of Triumph Productions, who was suing Fry for £500,000 damages for breach of contract, has accepted £255,000 in what lawyers described as a mutually acceptable deal. Some £235,000 will be paid by the insurers who were also being sued.

The curtain came down on *Cell Mates* last March after Fry left for the Continent. The press gave chase and he eventually returned to London, saying he had suffered a nervous breakdown.

In a statement Mr Weldon said: "Having had the benefit of expert psychiatric advice on the medical reports that Stephen Fry provided to Triumph, Duncan Weldon now accepts that Stephen Fry was too unwell to continue to perform in *Cell Mates*."

Arts pages 26-28

## Man who bought lost golf balls is not guilty of receiving stolen goods

By JOHN SHAW

THE owner of a golf driving range who bought old balls collected by schoolboys from a local course was cleared of receiving stolen property yesterday.

Andrew Goodridge, 28, who runs the Bury driving range at Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, said outside court after the prosecution had been discontinued: "The case should not have been brought. It was ridiculous. It has been a complete waste of time and money."

The prosecution had been brought under Section 220 of the Theft Act 1968. Mr Goodridge, 28, of Lark Valley Court, Fornham St Martin, was accused of receiving balls stolen from the Fornham

Park golf club, an 18-hole course near the town, between July 1 and August 10.

But Paul Forsyth, of the Crown Prosecution Service, said during a brief hearing that a notice discontinuing the prosecution would be served on Mr Goodridge.

William Jackson, 42, his solicitor, said Mr Goodridge had incurred considerable legal expense and asked for costs which were granted.

Mr Jackson said he understood that the police had pressed ahead with the case without taking advice from the CPS.

Mr Goodridge said the golf course was foreign-owned and a sign in the bar indicated that any golf balls lost for more than five minutes became the property of the club.

Two schoolboys, aged about 15, had been found in one of the ponds on the course by a greenkeeper, and the matter had been reported to the police.

Mr Goodridge said he had been unable to believe it when he was accused of receiving

but he had co-operated and had gone to the police station.

"I went down there for a tape-recorded interview but the officer got nasty and treated me like a criminal."

It was a tradition of the game, he said, that lost balls found on a course were often later sold on to professional shops. It had been accepted that balls found by greenkeepers were a perk of the job.

"People who have come to my range since this case have

laughed about the whole thing. It is just ridiculous." He said he would not be making a complaint. The costs of the case had not been determined but, he said, were likely to run into hundreds of pounds. The two boys involved had been cautioned.

The course was laid out in 1974-75 and is owned by a company called Matsuzato Hawaii Incorporated, based in Hawaii. A spokesman confirmed the existence of the sign claiming lost balls for the club, but he denied any campaign against Mr Goodridge.

He said that the club had not instigated proceedings against him. "We did not press for any charges nor were we consulted at any time by the police concerning this case."

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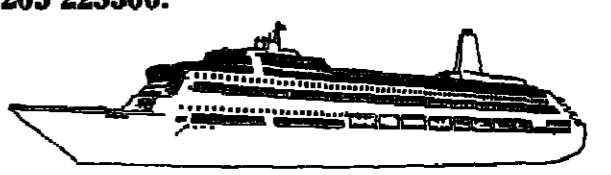
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One murder count dropped at magistrates' court

## Retired carpenter accused of killing three in war atrocities

By BILL FROST

ONE of the four charges of murder against the first man in Britain to face prosecution for alleged Nazi atrocities committed in German-occupied Eastern Europe was dropped yesterday when he appeared in court.

Szymon Serafinowicz, an 85-year-old retired carpenter, remains accused under the War Crimes Act, 1991, of killing three unknown Jews in Belarus — part of the former Soviet Union — between November 1941 and March 1942. No plea was entered for any of the charges yesterday as committal proceedings began, but his lawyer made plain at an earlier hearing that they would be vigorously defended.

In the unlikely setting of Dorking Magistrates' Court in Surrey, Mr Serafinowicz, a widower, squinted and blinked as the clerk asked him to confirm his name. Clearly in some difficulty, he cupped a hand to his ear and she repeated the question loudly.

Closing his eyes against the powerful ceiling lights, he confirmed his name, address and date of birth. He was then told that one of four counts of killing Jews after the German invasion of Belarus had been withdrawn.

The frail pensioner had been driven into a rear courtyard of the courthouse in the back of a police Rover past a posse of photographers and TV cameramen.

Peter Badge, the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, told the press — foreign journalists in particular — that the factors behind the withdrawal of the charge could not be reported for legal reasons. Earlier, Mr Badge, who was involved in

told that up to 26 witnesses from Russia, the United States and Israel, would be called. The Crown Prosecution Service will have to arrange for interpreters in at least four languages.

Committal proceedings at Dorking are expected to last until April and will cost an estimated £1.5 million. A media amanuensis with an audio link has been set up to accommodate the throng of reporters covering the case.

Dorking appears unmoved by being chosen as the venue for Britain's first War Crimes prosecution. The only evidence that the town is interested can be found in telephone kiosks near the court.

A right-wing organisation styling itself "The Voice of Reason" has put up cheaply printed stickers reading: "No War Crimes trials! Hands off OAPs. We want British justice — not Zionist vengeance."

**Six million fighting at the frontier**

By RICHARD FORD

ON June 22, 1941, Hitler launched Operation Barbarossa, a surprise attack on Stalin's Russia, his former ally. Armies of three million men on either side, with air and naval backing, faced each other on the German-Russian frontier. During the first

weeks of the war on the Eastern Front, the German army made sweeping advances, achieved vast encirclements of Russian troops and took thousands of prisoners.

The bulk of the German army was to break the Soviet force in Byelorussia and then assist in clearing the Baltic area and capturing Lenin-

grad. Hitler's attack began with air attacks which destroyed the bulk of the Soviet air force and disrupted headquarters and supply dumps.

In six days, the Germans had enveloped Minsk, the capital of Byelorussia, and captured 280,000 men. But soon the German army was confronting the problems of its

initial successes with stretched supply lines and Soviet troops still capable of resistance.

By December leading elements of the German army were almost at the city limits of Moscow but Stalin launched a counter-offensive and by the spring of 1942 both sides had fought each other to a standstill.

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# From ancient Assyria to laser surgery, the eyes have it

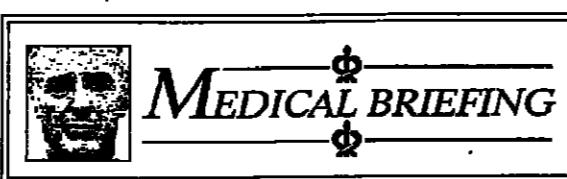
A pair of spectacles recovered at low tide from the Thames foreshore has been dated to about 1500 and ranks as about the oldest surviving pair in Europe.

Spectacles were invented in Italy in 1285, although simple lenses made of various materials were well established in ancient Rome and have been found in the ruins of Carthage and at Nineveh, the ancient capital of Assyria.

The Thameside spectacles were of a simple practical design, probably uncomfortable to wear, and certainly

not intended in any way as a fashion accessory as modern versions now are. Robert Chappell, a member of the College of Optometrists and an expert on the intricacies of spectacle manufacture, said that although today's choice had never been greater the difference in the spectacle frames was now one of appearance rather than practicality.

It is, in fact, now more difficult to find a comfortable pair than it was 30 years ago. In the past, before spectacles were regularly changed by their owners to keep up with



Dr Thomas Stuttaford

fashion, they were available in several different breadths and with different arm lengths. They were also manufactured with varying bridge sizes to accommodate those who had small or large noses. Now spectacles are

made with only one standard bridge size in two breadths and the patient has the choice of either a long or a short arm.

If there is a lack of variety in fittings there is none in the material from which they are

made. A pair made of the newest, lightest and most fashionable material, titanium, will cost about £300, while £1,000 would buy some gold ones and for rather more Cartier is pleased to supply gold frames studded with diamonds. The best value for money must still be the rolled gold NHS style half moons at about £95. They take some finding but Mr Chappell says that they are still available.

Nero used a polished, shaped emerald to view the gladiators fighting but many rich and well-educated Romans dispensed with specta-

cles and hired a young man to read their manuscripts aloud. The rich are once again able to throw away their spectacles, relying on laser therapy rather than having someone to do their reading for them.

John Grindle, a consultant ophthalmic surgeon who practises in London, said that, by altering the shape of the cornea with laser therapy, 95 per cent of those who are considered suitable for surgery, and who have a refractory error of less than minus three, can do without glasses.

The success rate falls as the degree of short sightedness increases but minor changes in the laser have extended its use so that now 90 per cent of those who have severe short sightedness — up to minus ten — can benefit from laser treatment at a cost of only £395 an eye and can expect afterwards only to have to wear spectacles for watching television, using computer or driving.

The skill in obtaining consistently good results and the satisfaction of the patient depends on selecting only those people for surgery who are going to benefit. This skill requires an understanding of human nature as well as of eye diseases. Some patients attribute all their misfortunes in life, social, sexual and professional, to having to wear glasses and are inordinately upset when their world is not revolutionised after the glasses become redundant.

Research is well advanced into using the laser to provide older people with bifocal corneas. This is not yet available but Mr Grindle confidently predicts that the time is not far off when it may be possible to dispense with half moons.

## Funding squeeze angers academics

# Universities may cut student intake as cash runs out

BY DAVID CHARTER, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

UNIVERSITIES are threatening to admit more foreign students and turn away British undergraduates this year in protest at a government funding squeeze.

A growing number of vice-chancellors are rallying behind a plan that would lead them to clash with ministers and end an era of growth, which has seen university places increase by 50 per cent since 1989. A few favour the more radical alternative of charging all students direct "top-up" fees, depending on the cost of their course.

Both moves will be debated at an emergency meeting of the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals on February 2. The Budget imposed a cut in funding of 7 per cent in real terms in the next academic year, after a 25 per cent reduction over the past five years. Capital funding was cut by 31 per cent from £350 million to £243 million as the Treasury found extra money for schools.

John Bull, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Plymouth, said: "If there is no more money from the public purse I would prefer to explore ways

in which there could be a deal with the custodians of the public purse to agree there will be fewer students for that money."

Universities are free to charge a market rate for non-European Community students, who pay for themselves or are funded by their Government. Annual course fees for British students are fixed by the Government at £750 for classroom-based subjects, £1,600 for laboratory or workshop-based courses and £2,800 for clinical courses. The committee estimates the true cost of these courses as £6,000, £3,000 and £4,500 respectively.

A committee spokesman said: "Vice-chancellors are licensed. They realise they cannot go on any longer providing high-quality higher education for the amount of money the Government provides." Universities are now preparing bids to the Higher Education Funding Council to cut numbers of British undergraduates. They can only do so with funding council approval but were helped when, immediately after the Budget, the council said it

Education, page 29

would accept applications for a cut of 3,000 students. The deadline is February 9.

Graeme Davies, principal of Glasgow University and former chief executive of the funding council, said: "Universities can raise more money or recruit fewer students and these are the two alternatives we have in mind. We can seek top-up fees or to take more high-resource students from abroad."

James Wright, Vice-Chancellor at Newcastle, said: "I think the key issue we are down to is that we need to make students pay for all of their maintenance and maybe an additional fee. But it has got to be with a decent loans scheme, not the mess we have at the moment."

Both Labour and the Liberal Democrats are preparing to ditch their traditional support for student grants to cover the cost of living, in exchange for a commitment to revive the expansion of higher education. The Liberal Democrats said students would be required to make a contribution to the costs of their education.

Education, page 29

## Artistic director will take opera to the people

THE conductor Stephen Barlow has been appointed artistic director of Opera Northern Ireland. It was announced yesterday the tenth birthday of the company. As part of a strategy to bring opera closer to the people, Opera Northern Ireland is to develop community projects to appoint a full-time officer to take opera into the schools to

do more touring, north and south of the border, and to encourage backing from business people. Barlow said yesterday: "Opera is perceived as being 'out' of reach of many people, both financially and intellectually. I see it as a huge challenge to change this. It will take time, but I'm confident Opera Northern Ireland has the strategy to 'do it.'

Barlow, who has worked with the main opera houses and orchestras in Britain, and also abroad, is a co-founder of the company Opera 80, now known as English Touring Opera. In 1995 he conducted Rossini's *The Barber of Seville* for Opera Northern Ireland, and last year led a gala concert in Belfast featuring soprano Lesley Garrett.



## Getty's birthday gift helps silent star shine

BRITAIN'S first screen sex symbol is publishing her autobiography at the age of 86, thanks to a birthday gift from the tycoon John Paul Getty Jr.

Chili Bouchier, who appeared in 15 silent films and 45 talkies, used a £5,000 cheque from Getty, a film enthusiast, and most of her life savings to produce *Shootin' Star*, which will be issued next month to mark the centenary of the cinema.

"Publishers were doubtful about the cost because I wanted a lot of photographs, so I thought, to hell with it. I'll publish it myself," she said.

The cover shows the young Chili revealing her breasts, a pose from her film *Carnival*. The picture is modest by today's standards but in 1931 many newspapers considered it too daring for publication.

Chili hopes that Mohamed Al Fayad will offer her a launch party at Harrods, where as chairman he welcomed her on her 80th birthday, 64 years after she was fired as the store's model.

At 16, she was seduced by one of its floorwalkers. She then saw an advertisement which said: "We make film stars: price three guineas."

## Miniature motor is a giant leap for technology

BY NICK NUTTALL

SCIENTISTS in America have developed an engine the size of a grain of pollen, making possible a tiny world of midget machines.

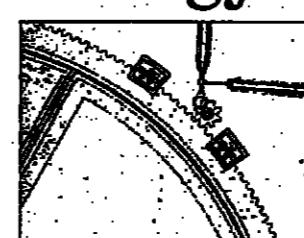
The engine, developed in New Mexico, is said to be simple enough to be mass-produced but complex enough to be useful. Manufacture opens the possibility to such science-fiction-like creations as a tiny robot capable of navigating the human body to clear cholesterol or repairing torn ligaments or nerves. Other hoped-for "nanotechnology" gadgets include man-made insects that are able to buzz around the garden killing real pests and ones that work in the house cleaning dust from floors.

Micromotors could also be used for low-cost gyroscopes which could have a big impact on the design of cars and military systems, offering highly accurate guidance.

Jeff Sniegowski, of the Sandia National Laboratories in Albuquerque, one of the scientists involved, said yesterday: "We believe we are the first to demonstrate a really good micromotor that can connect up with a variety of devices."

"Our idea was to develop a generic micromotor that has a gear output, so people see there's a power source they can hook up an application to."

Neil Singer, also of the laboratories, said one of the



The tiny silicon motor

first applications might be for internal drug pumps in which the micromotor could release tiny amounts of drugs or hormones directly into an organ or the patient's bloodstream.

The motor, which is a millimetre square, has been made from silicon and, like mass-produced microchips used in computers, can be etched with acid or light. It is made of gears the smallest of which is the diameter of a human hair and can spin at 200,000 revolutions a minute. The gears are connected to drive shafts, as in a conventional engine, and are powerful enough to turn other gears up to 30 times bigger. The motor can develop 0.5 microwatts of electricity.

The team hopes to combine the motor with an electronic chip circuit to give it computer intelligence. At present the device is run on electricity but scientists are toying with novel ideas such as powering the motor by using the temperature changes that occur when water droplets evaporate off the gears and drive shafts.

The European Space Agency has successfully tested the supercooled engines of the new Ariane space rocket. The launch is due in the summer from Kourou in French Guiana. The Ariane booster will first be used to launch the "cluster" mission — a flotilla of four spacecraft which will study the Earth's magnetic field.

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## Drive to save violet click beetle

BY NICK NUTTALL

WILDLIFE conservationists are to spend £15,000 planting 300 trees in Hereford and Worcester to save a rare and secretive jumping insect.

The violet click beetle is

men's advisory body, said yesterday. "It is so rare we know little about its lifestyle and the adult has only been seen five or six times. But it seems to live in a soul-like mixture where birds have nested, squirrels have died and fungus grows in hollow

chalk grassland. The hill also has hawthorn, which provides nectar and a mating site for beetles in the spring.

But planting last took place 200 years ago at the 380-acre site and many oaks were felled in the Second World War for timber and fuel. Princely Na-

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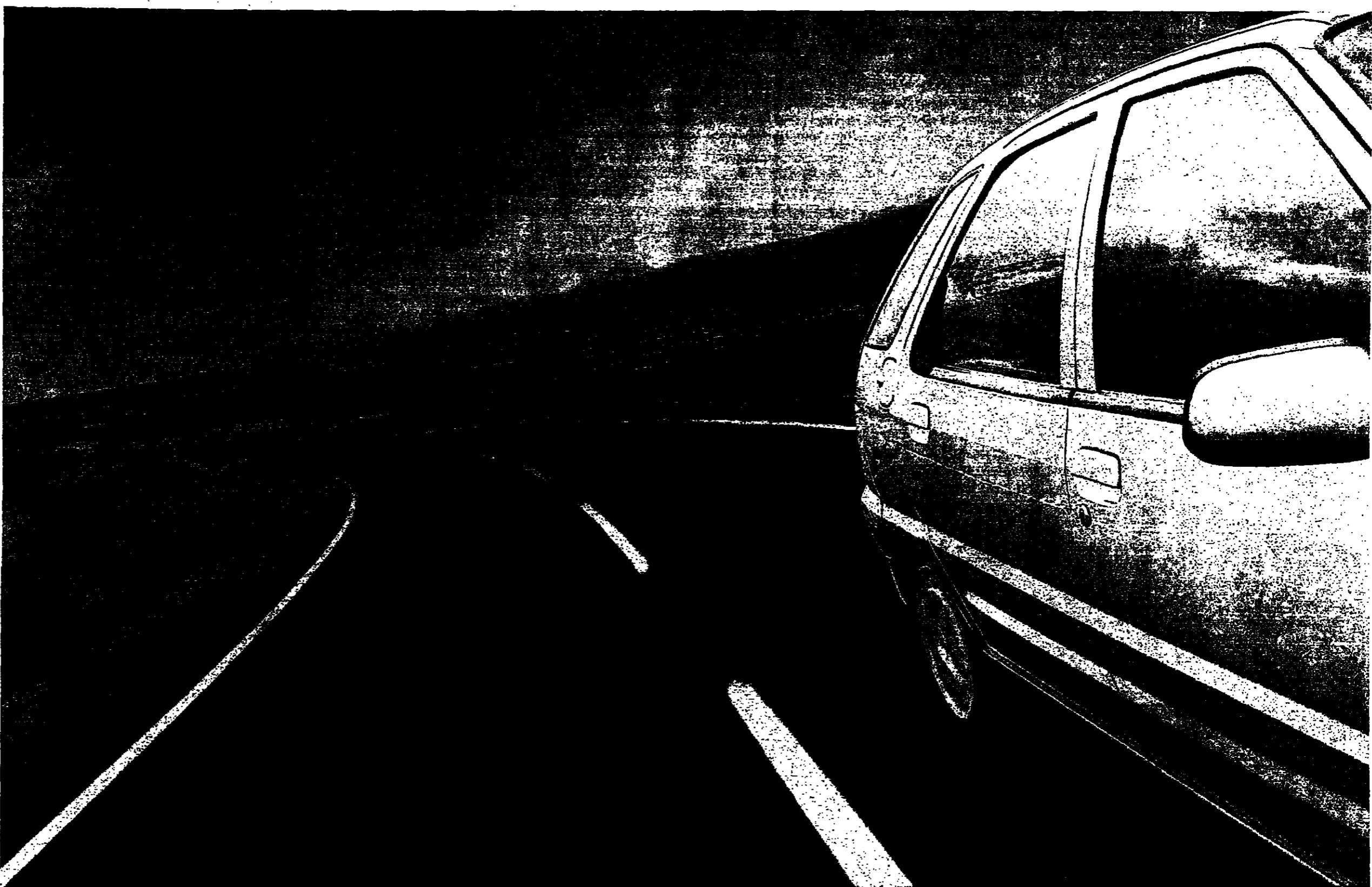
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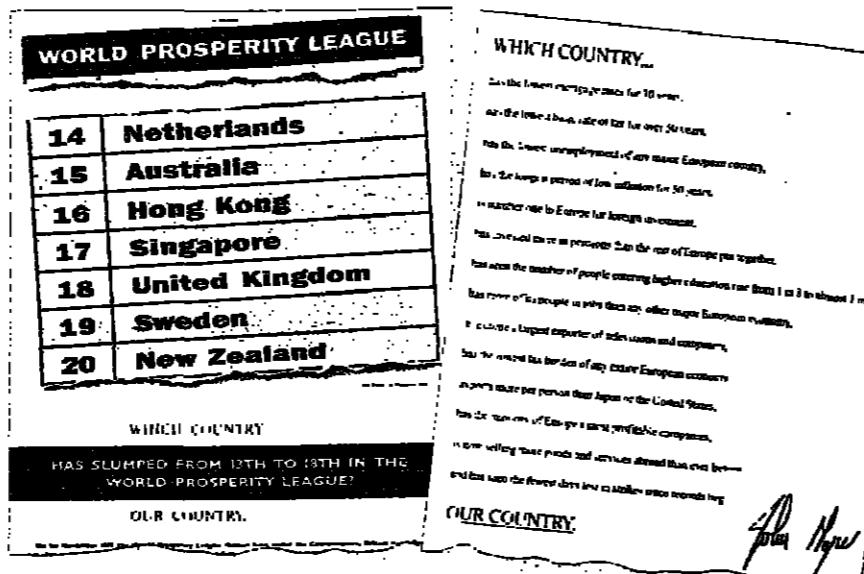
## Parties wield statistical weapons in economic battle

**Under Tony Blair, new Labour has been challenging the Tories' reputation for economic stewardship. Janet Bush says that the case can be argued two ways**

The Government and Labour have locked horns on what both believe will be the critical battleground of the election campaign: the economy. The chosen weapons are statistics, marshalled by both sides in recent days in full-page news-paper advertisements.

In *The Sunday Times*, John Major asked "Which Country" was, for example, Europe's largest exporter of televisions and computers, or had the lowest tax burden of any major European country. After a list of 14 glowing economic facts, he answered himself in suitably patriotic terms: "Our Country".

Labour pounced, reusing the advertisement originally placed in this newspaper last November that formed the basis of its pre-budget assault on the Government. In yesterday's *Independent*, it published part of a table showing that Britain had slipped from 13th place in 1979 to 18th place now in the world prosperity



Adverts placed by Labour, left, and the Tories argue their economic case

fessing itself delighted that Labour has been drawn on to the one subject on which it feels it can conceivably win the election. President Clinton has moved on to foreign policy as potential second-term winner. However, the risks for John Major of campaigning on peace in Bosnia or Northern Ireland are too great to contemplate. So the

battle of the statistics has only just begun. Statistics being as flexible a tool as they are — for every positive figure, there is an equally compelling negative qualification; for every negative, there is a positive way of looking at it — there is considerable ammunition for both sides.

Labour won the first round

with its prosperity league table at the beginning of November. It took care to use impeccable sources, quoting directly from figures provided by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, the very group that government ministers have cited recently to laud Britain's economic miracle since 1979. Unfortunately for Angela

Knight, the Treasury Minister who dismissed the figures as nonsense the morning after they appeared, they had been reproduced in Michael Heseltine's own paper on competitiveness in May. The startled Deputy Prime Minister was forced to admit on the BBC at luncheon that the figures were, unfortunately, correct.

The only liberty that Labour took with the OECD's figures was to include Singapore and Hong Kong — neither of which are in the OECD — above Britain in the rankings. This demoted the UK to 18th rather than 10th place. However, this adjustment was made after consultation with the International Monetary Fund and was given credibility by the annual competitiveness scoreboard published by the World Economic Forum, an influential Swiss group. Its table placed the two Far Eastern powerhouses in second and third places respectively on its table of 48 countries. In this version of the statistical truth, Britain also came 18th.

The Treasury has understandably been rather dismayed about Mr Heseltine's championing of annual competitive reports because they tell a rather negative story.

When Central Office produced its own advertisement on Sunday, it ignored the whole issue, focusing instead on its own pot-pourri of positive statistics. All 14 items are as true as Labour's offering is impeccably sourced. But interpretation is the name of the game in economics.

It is true that Britain had

the lowest unemployment rate

of any major European country in 1995 — but only if you accord "major" status solely to Germany, France and Italy. If other economies are included, British unemployment is higher than that of The Netherlands, Luxembourg, Sweden, Norway, Portugal, Switzerland and Austria.

It is correct that Britain is enjoying the longest period with low inflation for the past 50 years. But compare its record with the two "major" European economies, and Britain has had higher average inflation over the past half century than both Germany and France.

For their part, the Conservatives dismissed Labour's assault on competitiveness grounds as cheap rubbishing of their achievements. The OECD may say that Britain has fallen behind, but there is

plenty the Government can shout about which statistics may not reflect its determination not to allow the social chapter of the Maastricht treaty and the minimum wage to destroy jobs, its successful assault on trade union power, its ability to attract foreign companies to Britain: the efficiency gains of privatisation.

For all that new Labour has

dared to fight on the economy,

the battle-lines are still quite traditional. Labour, with its accent on industry, investment and trading performance, has chosen competitiveness as its standard. The Conservatives are appealing to consumers, talking about low interest rates and low taxes. They had been planning their advertisement for some time but were afraid that its upbeat tone would provoke derisive laughter in a distinctly feel-bad electorate — until now.

Whether these statistical blasts and counter-blasts become the stuff of bar-room debate or are dismissed as "lies, damn lies and statistics" is a question the spin doctors will have to answer in due course.

Leading article, page 15

## Handle chicken with care to cut poisoning risk

### WEEKEND SHOPPING

A REPORT in *Which?* claiming that many Class A chickens are so poorly gutted that they pose a health risk emphasises the importance of choosing chickens carefully and handling them hygienically at home.

Avoid chickens that show signs of bruising, thick skin or unplucked feathers. When unplucking, check the body cavity for cleanliness, and wash your hands before handling other food or kitchen equipment. Keep the bird out of contact with other food and ensure that it is cooked thoroughly by following the guidelines on the packaging. Good hygiene at home should eliminate the risk of food poisoning.

If you wish to fish as an alternative, though, the week's best buy is herrings, which are plump and full of flavour at present, and low in price at 90p a pound. They are delicious grilled with a little lemon and olive oil, or dipped in oatmeal and shallow fried. Advertised supermarket promotions include:

Asda: fresh diced turkey thigh £2.18 a kg, fresh pork spare rib £2.39 a kg, fresh lamb shoulder £3.05 a kg, green seedless

grapes £1.39 a lb, cherry tomatoes 79p a punnet.

Budgets: fresh 2.3kg chicken

£3.39, broccoli 75p for 500g,

traditionally made crumpets 23p for six.

Harrods: whole Scottish kipper

£7.25 for 3.2kg box, sliced

smoked salmon £18 for three

227g packets, freshly cooked

lobsters £30 for four, beef

biltong sticks £2.25 for 100g.

Iceland: lower fat breaded cod

£1.99 for 575g, boned kippers

£1.49 for 680g, boneless chick-

en breast £3.99 for 900g,

turkey breast fillets £2.99 for

700g, treacle tart 99p for 320g.

Marks & Spencer: chicken

breast fillets in breadcrumb

£4.99 for 750g, oak smoked

salmon £2.49 for 100g, frozen

at sea cod in crumb £2.99 for

600g, apple tart £1.69 for 510g.

Morrison's: fresh braising

steak £4.38 a kg, fresh shoul-

der of lamb £2.97 a kg, crumpets 39p for 12, Golden

Delicious apples 29p a lb.

Safeway: braising steak £3.69

a kg, chicken fillets £3.99 for

900g, brisket of beef £3.99 a

kg, white baps 63p for 12, red

peppers 80p a lb, Granny

Smith apples 39p a lb, cour-

gettes 99p a lb, blue stilton

£2.99 a lb.

Sainsbury's: large frozen

chicken £1.85 each, minced

beef and onion pies 79p for

400g, fish fingers £1.89 for

1.5kg, home grown potatoes

69p for 2.5kg, Conference

pears 99p for 1.25 kg, Royal

Gala apples £1.19 for 12, diet

yoghurts £1.99 for 12.

Somerfield: British pork belly

rasher £2.17 a kg, Class A

chickens £1.74 a kg, gammon

steaks £1.09 for two, minced

beef and onion pie 39p.

Tesco: beef brisket slow roast

£4.18 a kg, rump steak £7.38 a

kg, boneless shoulder of pork

£2.39 a kg, fresh whole roast

chicken £3 a kg, Conference

pears 39p a lb, baby sweetcorn

£1.29 for 200g, crumpets 39p

for ten.

Waitrose: Scottish roasting

beef £2.49 lb, Aberdeen Angus

roasting beef £2.99 a lb, farm-

house sausagemeat £1.39 for

450g, frozen North Atlantic

prawns £3.89 for 400g, chilled

raspberry trifle £1.25 for 397g,

dairy vanilla ice-cream £2.19

for 2 litres.

ROBIN YOUNG

## Dealers alerted to Nelson theft

BY A STAFF REPORTER

POLICE hope to trace the stolen diaries of Nelson's master gunner by circulating details to antique dealers all over Britain. The three volumes, written nearly 200 years ago, are believed to be worth tens of thousands of pounds.

They were taken a week ago in a raid on a Tyneside house but detectives believe that the burglars do not realise the true worth of the documents and may throw them away. Officers from Northumbria Police are circulating information to antique and art dealers across the country.

A national network of antiquarian booksellers has alerted its members to the theft. The handwritten notes, which

contain details of Nelson's battle plans and documentation on his fleet's weapons, were stolen from Gordon Scullard, 61, of Whickham, Gateshead, a descendant of a South Shields mariner who served with Nelson.

The thieves took antique furniture including a locked bureau in which the diaries were kept. Mr Scullard said: "They are unique. No one knew we had them here."

John Graves, of the National Maritime Museum in Greenwich, said they were irreplaceable and Nelson memorabilia was likely to attract great interest from dealers before the bicentenary of the Battle of Trafalgar in 2005.

**THE WORLD'S GREATEST SALE**

'SOPHIA' 3-SEAT SOFA + 2-SEAT SOFA  
WAS £1550 **£995**

3-SEAT SOFA + 2 ARMCHAIRS WAS £495 NOW £195

**Delsmere**  
3-seat sofa + 2 armchairs  
£2695 £2295

**Melanie**  
3-seat sofa + 2 armchairs  
£1295 £1495

**Primrose**  
3-seat sofa + 2 armchairs  
£2495 £2295

**Jupiter**  
3-seat sofa + 2 armchairs  
£2495 £1395

**20 MONTHS INTEREST FREE CREDIT\* ONLY 10% DEPOSIT**

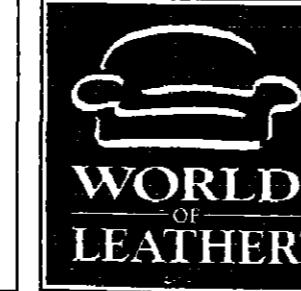
EXAMPLE: SALE PRICE £1000, DEPOSIT £100, BALANCE £900.  
20 MONTHLY PAYMENTS OF £50. TOTAL CREDIT PRICE £1020. APR. 15%

\*On purchases of £995 and over, subject to status. Written details on request.

'Sophia' - two top quality leather sofas for under £1000! Just one of a storeful of offers in the World of Leather Winter Sale. In fact, every one of our 100 styles is reduced. What's more, our sale prices are genuine savings, because World of Leather prices represent the best leather

value all year round. Cash-backs, trade-ins and gimmicks are not our style. You might find longer credit or apparently bigger savings elsewhere, but don't be fooled - look at the prices.

World of Leather means real value, always. And during the Winter Sale, hundreds of real savings too.



nic battle

# South Africa row over 'bugging' of police chiefs

FROM RAY KENNEDY IN JOHANNESBURG

A ROW broke in South Africa yesterday over the bugging of senior police officers that has drawn in the National Intelligence Agency and Thabo Mbeki, the First Deputy President.

The police service and I remain mystified as to who is behind this surveillance and why it was or is being done," said George Flavas, the national police commissioner, in a statement. "Other provincial commissioners have also reported various forms of surveillance," he added.

"All our efforts are supposed to be concentrated on fighting threats to South Africa's security — not each other."

The commissioner went on: "Former hit-squad commander Dirk Coetzee stated to a police officer ... that he was tasked by the National Intelligence Agency [NIA] to spy on me and other members of the police top structure." This was denied by the agency, which

said Mr Coetzee, an apartheid-era security policeman who defected to the African National Congress, "has never received instructions by the NIA to this effect."

"We therefore reject any insinuation to this effect as nothing more than mischief-making." It claimed, Mr Coetzee fled the country before South Africa's elections in 1994, won by the ANC, and gave details of murders and other covert activities he said had been carried out by himself and colleagues.

Mr Mbeki said the reports of spying were "disturbing", and he had convened a meeting of relevant Cabinet ministers and heads of security agencies next week to discuss the issue.

The ANC said the reports, first published yesterday morning by *The Star* newspaper in Johannesburg, appeared to be aimed at sowing divisions between security agencies. "The NIA and the

police remain committed to the same objective, the defence of our democracy ... the allegations can only be interpreted as an attempt to create a rift of mistrust between these two important services and thereby bring the integrity of both into question," the ANC said.

Both the ANC and the opposition National Party of F.W. de Klerk, the Second Deputy President, called for an inquiry into the reports.

Later this month the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, set up by the Government of national unity and chaired by Archbishop Desmond Tutu, is to begin hearings into human rights crimes carried out during the apartheid era. It is suspected that the surveillance of senior officers in the police force, which has been totally restructured, could be linked to parties involved in such activities trying to cover their tracks.



Tagged by Darwin: a finch found in a wooden crate at a Melbourne museum

## Darwin's bird in the hand

FROM ROGER MAYER IN SYDNEY

A CHANCE find in the vaults of the Museum of Victoria in Melbourne was hailed yesterday as a priceless discovery and a coup for Australian science.

Two preserved birds — a finch and a tapaculo, or bush bird — were uncovered in a wooden crate. Both were almost certainly tagged and preserved by Charles Darwin on his voyage around South America in the 1830s during his quest to prove the theory of evolution.

The men have been remanded in custody until Monday. British intelligence officials have been asked for information about the background of the pilot, Peter Bleach, who lives in a farmhouse in North Yorkshire.

He was arrested with the Lankan crew members of an AN-26 aircraft that allegedly dropped rocket-propelled grenade launchers and at least 300 Kalashnikov rifles last month on to the village of Purulia in West Bengal.

K. Padmanabhaiah, the Indian Home Secretary, has reviewed investigations into the case, which government officials describe as an "international conspiracy". The authorities are searching for an Indian known as Randy who was supposedly the contact man in India for the arms deliveries.

## Questions for Briton over arms

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

A BRITISH pilot and five other crew members of a cargo plane that allegedly dropped weapons by parachute over a rural area of eastern India are being questioned by Indian intelligence agencies in prison in Calcutta.

The men have been remanded in custody until Monday. British intelligence officials have been asked for information about the background of the pilot, Peter Bleach, who lives in a farmhouse in North Yorkshire.

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handle chicken  
with care to cut  
risk of food poisoning

PRESERVING YOUR MEAT

BROTHEL  
TICKS  
TOXICTICKS  
TOXIC



# Arson blamed for restaurant death of top French chef

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

THE mysterious death last week of Jean Schillinger, one of France's top chefs, renowned for inventing some of the most aromatic sauces in French cuisine, is believed to have involved crime.

Schillinger, 61, president of the Association of French Master Chefs, died when his famous restaurant in Alsace, awarded two Michelin stars, was destroyed by fire two days after Christmas.

The police initially assumed that the fire was an accident, but after combing through the burnt-out rubble of the Jean Schillinger Restaurant in Colmar they began to suspect that the death of the *patron* was far from accidental. On Wednesday, the Colmar magistrate classed the case as "arson leading to death".

The chef died of asphyxiation in his flat over the restaurant. He had spent Christmas at another home, but he always stayed in the flat.

above his restaurant, alone, on the eve of reopening after a holiday to get an early start in his kitchen. At 3am on the day of the fire, Schillinger was woken by security guards who had been alerted by a burglar alarm in the restaurant. Witnesses said Schillinger twice appeared on the balcony of his flat as the fire spread, then vanished inside.

Neighbours reported hearing the sound of breaking glass just before the fire started and investigators discovered a large stone amid the rubble which police believe was used to break a downstairs window. Jean-Pierre Laffitte, the magistrate in charge of the case, said other "strong and convergent" clues has been discovered. "Foul play is strongly suspected but cannot be established for certain. The sounding of the alarm does not prove the presence of a person in the restaurant; it could have been set off by the flames or something else," M Laffitte said.

Many stars of French gastronomy attended Schillinger's funeral in Strasbourg Cathedral. Paul Bocuse, the master chef, described him as one of the grand masters.

The police in Colmar said that Schillinger had been the object of bitterness, but M Laffitte refused to say whether he had received any death threats. French cuisine is a competitive business, but Schillinger, a welcoming host famed for his smoked duck liver ravioli and foie gras with truffles, had few known enemies. His colleagues have expressed bafflement that anyone would destroy his restaurant, let alone kill its owner.

Mafia gangs have established protection rackets in other parts of the French restaurant business but Colmar remains a quiet city with little crime.



Jean Schillinger, who was killed by a blaze in his Colmar restaurant, was widely acclaimed for his aromatic sauces



# Maurice Saatchi finds his voice

**F**or years, the mastermind behind some of the most successful advertising campaigns in history has been avoiding interviews. With some reluctance, he has lifted the veil on his enigmatic personality.

IT IS exactly one year to the day since I did not interview Maurice Saatchi. He had just said goodbye to the company bearing his name: a shaken soul, but not shaken enough to dislodge his insistence on never being interviewed or quoted. A year on, we go through the same charade.

There must be no interview (the I-word). I must not root it in time or place. I must not say (she dictates): "Maurice leaned back in his chair and gazed out of the window..." It is hard to tell whether he is being serious, sometimes, as he strikes these poses — an uneasy alliance of arrogance and diffidence. He claims that answering questions will make him break out in a terrible rash. He has evolved this neurosis about being quoted. How does he get away with it? How does he always get away with everything?

Let us look at the facts. A year ago, nobody could foresee what would become of him. David Herro, the Chicago fund-manager who instigated the boardroom coup against Maurice, might have been right. Clients and creative talents might have stayed with the old company. Maurice might have sat in his little office named "Dress Rehearsal" in Davies Street, looking dolefully out of the window through his enormous glasses.

As it turned out, this new year — his fifteenth — starts cheerily. His old friends have proved loyal. The new British Airways campaign was launched yesterday. He finds himself laughing more than for years. As he likes to say: "Saatchi is more than a company, it's an attitude." After the débâcle, the Saatchi name ("a bloody good name, so bizarre nobody will forget it" — Charles Saatchi) is the only unfinished business. A legal battle, when the old company tried to stop M & C from using their own name, was settled last summer.

The brothers agreed not to solicit old clients or staff for six months. Their old company became Cordiant plc, but retained the Saatchi & Saatchi name for subsidiaries. To have two competitors under the Saatchi name is absurd. Maurice has said: "I do take some pride — not boasting, I hope — in reflecting how few British brand names have become famous all over the world. Saatchi is a great brand name."

Saatchi & Saatchi is no longer emblazoned across Berkeley Square. M & C Saatchi inhabit three floors of a building off Wigmore Street, where the style of décor —

pink herringbone tweed wall-covering — is not quite the Saatchi taste. Already they have outgrown it.

The story of the brothers' 17 years of aggrandisement has been often told. By 1986 they handled 5 per cent of the world's advertising. Then they swallowed Ted Bates; then attempted to take over the Midland Bank in a hubristic *jolie de grandeur*.

Now, while old Saatchi languishes, the new Saatchi agency has succeeded in regaining British Airways, Dixons, the Mirror Group, Gallagher, Qantas and Pfizer accounts, and taken on several more, including P&P, Sekonda, Alamo Rent-a-Car, Head, Glaxo Wellcome...

So Maurice and his wife, Josephine Hart, still have their three houses: Mayfair,

And he included a recording of Nathan Saatchi — who brought his family from Baghdad in 1947, when Maurice was one — singing in Hebrew at the Spanish and Portuguese Synagogue in Maida Vale. This made the old man very happy. (All four sons have "lost their religion".)

Sue Lawley lobbed at Maurice the memorable first line of his wife's first novel: "Damaged people are dangerous. They know they can survive." Was this true of him, she asked? "Yes, I think it's a most brilliant observation."

Lawley's view was that he was now motivated by revenge, like Hamlet. Maurice pointed out that Hamlet's revenge involved losing his own life: "I would hate to think that Hamlet's story was analogous..."

But getting the British Airways account back was, indeed, sweet revenge. Four agencies pitched for the account: the others were old Saatchi & Saatchi (known at M & C Saatchi as "Oldco"), J. Walter Thompson, and Bartle Bogle Hegarty. M & C won it, a campaign worth £100 million over two years. Tim Duffy is the young creative genius behind the first ad, Duffy, ex-Cambridge, explained to me his concept: "British Airways ads have always emphasised scale and size, with crowd scenes and big statements such as 'every year we bring the equivalent of Manhattan across the Atlantic...' But an airline has to communicate its personal, people-related side: customer service and sensitivity. Every moment, 15,000 people are in the air flying British Airways. Each passenger has hopes, dreams, ambitions, and we explore that human angle."

I try to forget the time in 1986 that we, with hopes, dreams and four small children, were bumped off a British Airways flight on a Bank Holiday for no better reason than that they had routinely overbooked the flight when someone mentioned this to Lord King on our behalf his response was: "Tough."

But that was reality, this is advertising. We shall see the new BA commercial this weekend, along with half a billion other people on six continents. It is certainly clever, a very 1990s commercial.

The mysterious alchemy of the advertising world is all to do with romance. This is why the old Saatchi & Saatchi loyalists, and the rising newcomers like Duffy, resigned on principle, and followed Maurice. Herro thought the am-



An unlikely mixture of arrogance and diffidence — Maurice Saatchi claims that an interview can bring him out in a terrible rash

gos" who had been with the brothers since time began — Jeremy Sinclair (creative guru who devised the pregnant man), Bill Muirhead and David Kershaw — would never walk away from their fat-cat accoutrements, pensions, chauffeured cars, and so on. But they did. Sinclair wrote in his resignation letter: "I am not leaving the company. The company has left me."

Maurice is suitably grateful to the amigos, the clients, the young Duffys. The atmosphere at M & C now is very like the old days, everyone talking in shorthand.

He is no longer driven by a crazed ambition to be the biggest agency in the world. He will not make that mistake again. "All that we would like to achieve is to be the most sought-after agency in the world." They have offices in New York, Hong Kong, Sydney and Singapore, but the French international agency Publicis operates for them elsewhere.

As a possible election year looms, Maurice has resumed another former account: selling the Tories. At a recent reception at 11 Downing Street, I witnessed him making a bet with the brother-in-law of Alan Howard: that the Tories would win the next election with an increased majority.

Last weekend, Saatchi launched a message from the Prime Minister in a full-page ad in all the Sunday papers. It coincided, unfortunately, with Emma Nicholson's defection — a foretaste of the aggro and panic the coming campaign will doubtless involve. But they do have a master strategy. "It is important not to peak too early," Maurice says, chortling.

After three years with the Saatchis, writing his book *The Brothers*, Ivan Fallon found Maurice "more shadowy and more complex" than ever. His choice of desert island luxury was a virtual reality headset that would transport him to his Sussex garden. "I would step out onto my terrace, I

would look at the beautiful wall of my house, and marvel at the inspired craftsmanship which involved juxtaposing Paul's Himalayan Musk with the fading flowers of the wisteria. I would get into my boat, sail across my lake and arrive at my jetty. Josephine

would get into the boat and would lie down beside me. I would look up at the blue sky of Sussex..."

But then, surely, he would wake up from this admiring's dream, alone and sadder than before?

"But it would seem real to

me. Perception is reality," he argues. Virtual reality manufacturers have since inundated him with offers to create his headset.

In last year's non-interview, I said Maurice's most annoying diversionary tactic when asked a question was his

counter-question: "Why don't you wear lipstick?" Afterwards he kindly sent me a very grand lipstick: Paloma Picasso's Mon Rouge. It makes me look like Cruella de Vil. One day I shall smear it on and terrify him into answering some straight questions.

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This January Sale package on Britain's best selling, award-winning Nokia 101 is exclusively available from the No.1 name in telephone shopping. So why shop prices when you can buy Cellphones Direct.

Simply phone us with your credit card details to receive your phone plus valuable extras in 4 working days.

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Peak Rate Calls 50p per min (42.5p + VAT)  
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Guaranteed Peace of Mind  
Your phone is covered by our 14 days no quibble money back promise.

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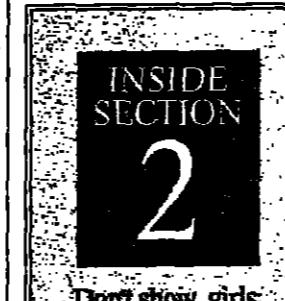
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Don't show, girls... why the blatant sexual content of Showgirls may prove to be the year's biggest turn-off

Page 26

**Classic Women's Clothing.  
Classic American Service.**

**TALBOTS  
END OF SEASON  
SALE  
35-50% OFF  
OUR ORIGINAL PRICES**

**A sale so special  
it happens only twice a year.**

Talbots End of Season Sale is now on.

Come on in and make great savings on our entire Autumn and Winter ranges, from casual to classic separates, in women's and petite sizes.

But hurry for the best selection.

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Women's Classic Clothing And Accessories Since 1947

BRENT CROSS: THE NEW EXTENSION, BRENT CROSS SHOPPING CENTRE, TEL: 0181 203 5111.

KINGSTON UPON THAMES:

AT THE BENTALL CENTRE ON THE CORNER OF WOOD STREET AND CLARENCE STREET, TEL: 0181-546 2000.

MANCHESTER:

ST. ANN'S SQUARE, EXCHANGE STREET, MANCHESTER, TEL: 0161 855 2333.

# Whose scalp will Scott take?

Peter Riddell says soundbites are as important as the inquiry

The Scott report on the arms to Iraq affair is the political wild card of the new year. Eighteen months late, the report is finally due to be submitted to Ian Lang, the President of the Board of Trade, within a few weeks. Its impact will depend not just on what it says — in more than 2,000 pages of complicated argument — or upon how vigorous a defence is mounted by the ministers criticised, but upon the snap judgment on what it appears to say.

Allegations about Whitehall misdemeanours seldom interest the public for long. They have little effect on most people's lives, and matter only when they cast doubt on the integrity of ministers or result in resignations. The Westland affair, exactly ten years ago, had a very limited impact on Tory fortunes. Margaret Thatcher worried that she might not survive, but once it was clear that she was safe, the murky details were quickly forgotten.

Much depends on the political mood. The inquiry under Lord Franks into the Argentine invasion of the Falklands in 1982 would have been much more damaging if the outcome had been anything other than a triumph for Margaret Thatcher, but when the report appeared eight months after the conflict, there was no desire for hand-wringing.

The Franks inquiry was a classic example of the importance of what a report *appears* to say. Much of it was critical of political and intelligence failures which preceded the invasion. Lord Callaghan of Cardiff described this as a "splendid picture, delineating the light and shade". But when Franks reached the final paragraph, 339, "he got fed up with the canvas that he was painting and chucked a bucket of whitewash over it". The key sentence — "we would not be justified in attaching any criticism or blame to the present Government" — reads oddly after the previous 338 paragraphs. But it set the tone for the press interpretation.

As Alex Danchev argues in his biography of Franks, "Franks clears Maggie" was the reflex reaction, conditioned by the artful news management of the report's rush release; a tightly restricted distribution of advance copies, a prepared list of the number of key paragraphs, a spate of pre-publication leaks... designed to discount criticism of the Prime Minister herself and implant the idea of a long period of cross-party war guilt".

In the case of Scott, the inquiry's methods have already been fiercely criticised. The political world is divided between those who regard Sir Richard Scott as a brave, crusading judge who has exposed wrongdoing and cover-ups at the heart of Government, and those who see his inquiry as unfair to civil servants, and naïve about the workings of Whitehall and foreign policy. John Major has said merely that the Government will consider the report's conclusions, carefully making no commitment about accepting them.

## No gripes

ENGLAND'S abject cricketing performance in South Africa yesterday was enough to bring on a bout of indigestion in any of the team's supporters. But nobody reached for the gripe-water quicker than Jack Bannister, the British commentator who promised in a local newspaper that he would "eat this page" if South Africa won.

Bannister was held to his promise within minutes of the square-cut that earned South Africa its crushing Test victory. With local television cameras dancing gleeful attendance, Bannister was presented with the page on a silver platter, along with one bottle of South African chardonnay and a flask of digestive salts. He swallowed his pride along with the entire page.

The technique was to tear the newspaper into strips, then chew the page strip by strip, and swallow with a good gulp of wine. Aside from the odd burp, Bannister, who prides himself as a bookmaker, behaved with impressive decorum throughout the whole dyspeptic episode.

Prince Edward's girlfriend, Sophie Rhys-Jones, arrived on Wednesday for her first day's work

If the partisans on either side already have strong preconceptions, the verdict will be determined by whether the criticisms strike a popular chord. Much of the report concerns intelligence appraisals and export controls: whether ministers and civil servants acted contrary to published statements on the sale of arms to Iraq and whether Parliament was deliberately misled over any modification of these guidelines. William Waldegrave, a Foreign Office Minister in 1989, denies this charge and has been embroiled in lengthy exchanges with Sir Richard. These are as much questions of interpretation as of fact: much will depend on the language Sir Richard uses.

More important, and potentially damaging, is the signing of public interest immunity certificates by senior ministers, including Malcolm Rifkind and Kenneth Clarke, in the Matrix Churchill trial over alleged breaches of arms sale rules.

The collapse of this trial led to the setting-up of the Scott inquiry. These certificates are intended to protect sensitive official information from being automatically disclosed to the defence. Their status has changed considerably: in 1988 the House of Lords ruled that a trial judge could inspect documents to see whether protection was justified in order to safeguard the public interest or whether justice required disclosure.

Ministers have argued that they had a *duty* to sign to protect official documents, allowing judges to decide about release. But Michael Heseltine's reluctance to sign shows that this is a cloudy area, and the report is expected to recommend changes.

Critics argue that certificates are gagging orders on the rights of defendants. This view was reinforced by the Court of Appeal's decision in November to overturn the convictions of four men involved in supplying arms to Iraq, the Ordech case, on the ground that they had been denied a fair trial because vital documents were withheld by the Government.

Sir Nicholas Lyell, the Attorney-General, advised the ministers to sign and it is likely that he, rather than they, will be the target of criticism. This raises the emotive issue of whether people might have been sent to prison after an unfair trial. Sir Nicholas argues that he acted in good faith on the basis of the best legal opinion at the time. But in the past someone had to have signed, just to clear the air. Lord Carrington and two other ministers quit over the Falklands, and Mr Heseltine died over Westland. Sir Nicholas and Mr Waldegrave intend to defend their decisions vigorously. But the former looks more vulnerable as the necessary sacrifice this time. Sir Nicholas' enforced departure would further weaken the Government, but should not itself be terminal. The last rites could still be some time away.

Sting is having to build a hot-house at his Elizabethan mansion in Wiltshire in order to provide for his newly acquired pet iguanas. He is spending thousands of pounds kitting out an orangery for his new pair of Central American tree lizards, which grow to be 4 ft and have a rapacious appetite.

The scaly creatures are a present from staff, explains their supplier, Pete Sheppard of the Porton Appliance and Garden Centre. "Sting's head gardener came along to reserve a couple of iguanas," he says. "The staff wanted to buy him something unusual as a Christmas present."



MISS WIDDECOMBE'S CONVERSION

## Great wail of China

**When dissidents are being jailed and infants are being slaughtered in squalor, tourists should stay at home**

A tiny paragraph — hardly more than a dozen lines — stops the marmalade spoon halfway to the toast. I think I would have missed it altogether, had it not been on the same page as, and near the news of, the latest atrocity to be inflicted upon Wei Jingsheng, and I might as well give it to you in full. Headlined "China predicts rosy tourist future", it went, full of stirs, like this:

China expects to draw 250 million tourists from abroad over the next five years: about a 25 per cent increase from the first half of the 1990s, the official *China Daily* newspaper reported on Monday.

Revenue from tourism is also expected to grow, reaching \$14 billion by the year 2000. The newspaper was quoting He Guangwei, the director of the China National Tourism Administration.

Some 45 million overseas tourists

will have visited China by the end of 1995, the report said, and they will have spent \$8 billion.

Mr He said he expected that Hong Kong's return to Chinese sovereignty in 1997, and Macau's in 1999, to bring in more visitors through the port of the China National Tourism Administration.

The first and most obvious thought to arise is that there is no reason to believe anything whatever that He Guangwei says on the subject of tourism to China, or on anything else for that matter. If He Guangwei were told by his bosses to take all his clothes off and dance naked on the roof of the China National Tourism Administration, he would instantly do so. And if the gentleman over there has begun to curl his lip in scorn at my disbelief of the China National Tourism Administration's veracity, I shall ask him if he is old enough to have heard of a man called Stalin. Just as I was about to pen my next line, I stopped in something like horror; I had realised that there are in our country very many thousands of people — millions, perhaps — who have not heard of Stalin.

Some years ago, I wrote a column in jest, taunting the remnants of the dukes of the Soviet Union — no, they were much, much worse than dukes (this was when Gorbachev had just mounted the throne) — in which I made up a roster of those who had tried to wriggle out of their slavishness to evil. I made up ludicrous names for them, and a few had the decency to blush. But I ended my nonsense — still in absurdist mode —

by saying that they shouldn't be unhappy just because Brezhnev was dead, because Mao Tse-tung was even dead, and he would surely look after his acolytes, dead or alive. (After all, if there was a hitch, the followers could always mark time in Cuba, the very last outpost of Soviet democracy.)

Now go back and look at my paragraph, my serious paragraph, about occidentals in scores of millions flocking to China and her wonderfully democratic political system. And then spit, or I will.

I let me wander a little. Why did so many millions — yes, it is very many millions — give allegiance to manifest evil, though the evil was obvious and terrible? For a considerable time after Stalin and Stalinism had dissolved entirely, many of

the shamed tried to wriggle out by saying that they hadn't seen, or understood, what was happening; that illness, lying excuse disappeared and dissolved very early. Whereupon other millions coolly transferred their equal allegiance to an equal evil, now a Chinese one. When He Guangwei shuffles the pack, there will be very many other millions from many truly democratic lands scurrying to see China, or the bits the leaders will allow them to see.

Come let us follow the group; we have seen the Great Wall, and by domestic contrast we have seen at every open door a meat, plump, smiling housewife (or, of course, househusband). When we ask a different kind of question, such as

"Do you really believe that people in genuine democratic countries are willing to believe that China's record on human rights is more or less the same as ours?", our guide smiles and says that there are some bad people in Britain and in other countries who tell nasty lies about his country; he smiles again, and all is happy and smiling.

Or almost. For the name of Wei

Jingsheng keeps popping up, particularly when I am around, because whenever I see a headline which reads something like "China defends its record on human rights", I know that the foulest kind of lies are stewing in the pot, and that there is nothing — nothing — that could be called respect for human rights.

You should be raging by now, but cool down for a moment, and think not about the hideous fate of Wei Jingsheng, but about the man himself. Consider: the moment he got out of a jail after being incarcerated for 15 years for disagreeing with the Government, he went back in again for exactly the same reason. Would you do that? And for nothing but the truth? And without remission for good conduct? And under judges who could only be called

whores, for the very good reason that they are whores?

Rude, am I? Try this. When Wei Jingsheng was sentenced to 14 years (this is his second such sentence, not the first), the Thing on the Bench — his name is Wang Ming — was obviously not only told what sentence he was to give out (that, of course, is the standard form of "justice" in China), but was even told that the trial was to be described as "an ordinary case". There were two other villains in the matter, and I might as well name them too: the other Thing-Judge was Wang Yeshing, and the Prosecutor was Wang Huaijun. Asked whether the trial had been fair, the rehearsed answer was, yes it had been fair, because Wei Jingsheng had attacked the Government.

Amid this, we are told that there is respect for human rights in China. To prove it (and this gets very macabre), the Chinese Government has published a weird kind of *apology*. It is 23,000 words long and I am willing to bet a substantial sum that there is not a single word of truth anywhere in it.

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Bernard Levin

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Or almost. For the name of Wei

Philip Howard



■ Fishing should be for farmers, not pirates

Cry haddock and let slip the dogfish of war! Any day now the latest fish war is going to break out in the enigmatically named Irish Box. "Armadas" of huge Spanish trawlers were arriving in the Atlantic west and south of Ireland yesterday. Ere the month is out, you do not need to be a mystic astrologer prophesying mumble-jumble in "ere" language to predict fishy uproar over quotas (impossible to police), nets (too long and too synthetic), meshes (too small), dumping of unsatisfactory or out-of-quota fish overboard and other unsavoury practices which are not exclusively Spanish.

Robert Benchley is credited with being asked in an examination to discuss a previous fish war on the Great Banks from the point of view of (a) the United States and (b) Canada. And to have opened his essay: "I have no knowledge of either (a) or (b). Accordingly I propose to approach this question from the point of view of the cod." I hope he was awarded alpha plus.

For he had a point. From the earliest records, fish have had a fried deal from chippers and a raw deal from sushi-eaters. The marginal relationship between man and fish shoals in language and literature. Fish are the lottery for which man toils not neither does he spin, especially not on lochs reserved for wet fly. Homer's conventional epithet for the sea was the "unbarred". Perhaps he meant that fishing was a matter of luck and cunning, not husbandry. When blind Homer sang, you could not harvest the sea, just cast your net, trident or hook on the waters and hope for luck. Fishing was the avastivistic activity of man as hunter-gatherer and pirate, not man as farmer toiling on the stubborn earth in the sweat of his plough. Fishing of all sorts is the most popular participatory sport for males in Britain, because it is extremely idle and has old hunter-gatherer roots.

The trouble is that modern fishing technology has taken the lucky dip out of fishing and turned it into factory-farming. Nets a mile long and industrial vacuum cleaners sweep up every fish in their track. Even the tourist fishing boats from Girvan and the other little harbours use radar to find the shoals of mackerel, instead of following the gannets and local knowledge. This is genocide.

Perhaps the sea was unharvested to our fisher-fathers because the shoals of silver tunies seemed boundless, un-sown and unharvestable, a gift from the gods. French cuisine preserved their oyster. English *oyster faire* turned the oyster from poor man's food into an impossible luxury. Sam Johnson fed his cat Hodge on oysters. And he went out to buy them himself, in order to spare his slave/servant, Francis Barber, the humiliation of shopping for such common near-fish.

It makes no difference to a fish whether it is caught by Catalan hooks or drift-net, or whether it ends up in a tin unsuitable for tuna or on a fishmonger's slab for foie gras. But even tuna must worry about man — a puny creature half its size and a third of its weight, who can swim only very slowly and with inelegant splashing at the Olympics.

By fishy standards, man is not unintelligent. Widespread mythos credit dolphins having rescued men in the soup because of the sweetness of their singing. And modern dolphins have found that men can be trained, after a few months of captivity, to come to the edges of their pools and feed them hearings three times as day, to the applause of the dolphinarium sentimentalists.

When man fished by hook and by crook, the shoals could coexist with him. No longer. Even a MAFF bureaucrat should see that unless international organisations and national governments control the efficiency and rapacity of their fishermen, the oceans will empty. Too many boats chase too few fish with too much advantage.

Until now, the primitive law of the ocean has been eat or be eaten. Now, by enforced and unpopular quotas on the numbers of fishermen (rather than on unenforceable quotas on the numbers of fish), by pulling out of their element, by fish sanctuaries and fish farms, by banning destructive modern fishing technologies, and by buying out the fishermen, fish's old enemy must restrain his greed. Or he will end up on a silent sea.



Husain of Jordan to attend their golden anniversary this year of the local radio society.

Husain, who attended Harrow School, has long surfed the airwaves, and first visited the society in 1979 after an introduction from a communications officer at the Ministry of Defence. He soon became an honorary member; his call sign is JV1; and he recently made "friendly" radio contact between Jordan and Israel.

Derek Morris, president of the Radio Society of Harrow, is impressed: "His Majesty operates when in London. He speaks to people all over the world."



Birthday girl Marutha: are icy baths the secret?

ice, and Lady Menuhin explains that Marutha has lived for so long as a result of "bathing in ice-cold water, into which she has tossed two dozen grapefruit skins or a half-dozen bottlefuls of a very smelly drink called Kwass".

Lady Menuhin lays bare the secrets of Marutha's longevity in the article, and says that, as a youngster, she used to sleep in her corset the better to maintain her 22-inch waist.

The doughy girl has a touch of the Katharine Hepburns about her. La Hepburn, 88, still goes swimming in the lake by her house, even if she has to break the

P.H.S.

## Radio royal

RADIO-HAMs in Harrow have got their anorak-strings in a twist. They are itching to get King

in the words of tabloid vulgarisms, it is most likely a "snow-go zone" for the Prince and his party. Pride of place above the door is given to an enormous blow-up of the famous seductive photograph by Patrick Demarchelier of a young blonde, the Princess of Wales, which once graced the cover of *Vogue*. Locals have it that the Alte Schwerdi is known as the Alte Di.

● High above the woods in Kloster where the Prince of Wales' bodyguard broke his thigh sits a cosy cabin, the Alte Schwendi mountain restaurant, purveyor of fine fare and finer cocktails. But



● Prince Edward's girlfriend, Sophie Rhys-Jones, arrived on Wednesday for her first day's work



## NUMBER WARS

Labour's challenge on Tory economic ground

Short of another Falklands war, or a fatal accident occasioned by a bus to Tony Blair, what could deliver the next election to the Conservatives? The economy, stupid. It is the party's one best hope. Northern Ireland is too remote an issue, Europe too divisive and devolution too complicated. As our economics editor, Anatole Kaletsky, wrote yesterday, this year is likely to see more pounds in people's pockets. To economic determinists like Michael Heseltine, that means more positive points in opinion polls.

Although dry economic statistics have indicated a recovery for some years, the upturn has taken an unconscionable time to be detected by the public. That is because higher taxes and low wage growth have prevented better economic conditions from feeding through into the critical "feel-good" factor: personal disposable income, or cash take-home pay. This measure saw its smallest increase in 1994 since the 1940s, and last year was not much better. But in 1996, it looks set to rise by 5 per cent or more.

Hence the timing of the new year newspaper advertisements from the Conservative and Labour parties. The Tories have been waiting for some time to start trumpeting their economic achievements; until now they feared that such boasts would be met with cynical laughter. But a combination of tax cuts, rising house prices and lower interest rates have given consumers the sense that their prosperity is taking a turn for the better. Reports from the high street seem to tell the same story.

Thus newspaper readers are being asked careful questions in full-page advertisements: which country has the lowest mortgage rates for 30 years, the lowest basic rate of tax for over 50 years, the lowest unemployment of any major European country, and so on? Not Germany, not France, but "our country". This message is likely to be much repeated in the run-up to the election, culminating in the old but perennially successful slogan, "Don't let Labour ruin it".

## NATIONAL INTERESTS

Britain, the Saudis and Muhammad al-Masari

Yesterday was a bad day for London's most vociferous Saudi Arabian dissident. Dr Muhammad al-Masari, in the capital with his fax machine for nearly two years now, has been served with deportation orders. Get thee to Dominica, he has been told, for you are making life for us too, too difficult. You are upsetting our steadfast allies in Saudi Arabia — the House of Saud — by your criticism of royal corruption there. Your constant demand for an "Islamic government" in the desert kingdom, directed to anyone who will listen, sows only problems for us.

Yesterday was a bad day, also, for Ann Widdecombe, the Home Office minister charged with overseeing asylum matters. From her egregious words on the radio — explaining the Government's decision to punt Dr Masari in a Caribbean direction — three sentences stand out: "We have had a difficult balancing act"; "We have got enormous export considerations"; and "Britain's interests as a whole do require his removal". The bluntness was unimpeachable; the reasoning less so.

Of course Britain has a difficult balancing act; and since it is not a case of balancing like with like, but one of balancing "values" against "interests", the difficulties are only enhanced. Dr Masari is in this country because he would, almost certainly, meet an unpleasant fate in Saudi Arabia. The Government of King Fahd detested him; that of his successor-elect, Crown Prince Abdullah, detests him too. It is easy to see why, for Dr Masari writes things like this: "The House of Saud has the least at hand the State's revenues. What does astonish us, however, is the addiction to theft and embezzlement which continues unabated even at the very peak of an economic crisis." Saudi officials, unsurprisingly, have called for Dr Masari to be silenced. They have also rumbled ominously of a possible loss to Britain of

Yesterday Labour was swift in its attempt to ruin the message at birth. It ran a version of a newspaper advertisement earlier used in November, but suitably changed to challenge the Conservative version of a bright, confident economy. "Which country," it asked, "has slumped from 13th to 18th in the world prosperity league?" Our Country, of course. The headline was followed by further questions detailing Britain's poor performance relative to other countries. Yes, but Labour would do even worse, is the Tories' immediate response. Think of the social chapter and the minimum wage; they would make Britain still less competitive.

Both advertisements are judicious in the choice of facts that best suit their purpose. Labour is deliberately selective in its claims about unemployment and poverty. The Tories vaunt the lowest basic rate of tax for 50 years, but fail to draw attention to higher VAT and lower reliefs and allowances. Labour has good points to make on poor educational standards and broken tax promises. The Tories can justifiably be proud of low inflation and mortgage rates and high foreign investment.

But which party will benefit most from this battle of the statistics? The Conservatives are pleased to see Labour fighting them on their ground. In recent elections, Labour has tended to shy away from economic arguments, preferring to focus on its own issues of health and education. Mr Blair has been audacious in taking the fight to his opponents' territory: yesterday he cheekily told a Japanese audience that he wanted Labour to be seen as the party of business. He hopes, if not to win, at least to neutralise the Tories' advantage.

The Tory economic message is certainly the best hope that John Major possesses. But it will not be an easy winner. Voters will not quickly forget the tax rises of the past few years; and if they show signs of doing so, Labour will surely remind them.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

From Mr Francis Davis

Sir, As a Labour Party member I was pleased to read Lord Rees-Mogg's advocacy of aspects of Singapore's welfare strategy as the potential focus for new Labour policy ("Blair could make it the year of the tiger", January 1). However, the myth that Singapore's success is a simple victory of market mechanisms needs to be challenged.

While it is true that Singapore citizens make compulsory contributions to the Central Provident Fund (CPF), the rate of interest return that they receive from government is much lower than the market would pay. The surplus that the State generates in this way consequently provides a pool of resources available to spend on strategic projects, such as the large government housebuilding programme (in which many personal CPF deposits are also subsequently invested).

In the meantime Lord Rees-Mogg is to be congratulated for raising the issue and Labour's front bench should be encouraged to learn what is best in the "tiger" experience.

Yours faithfully,  
FRANCIS DAVIS,  
19 Twissell Thorne,  
Church Crookham, Hampshire.

From Mr David Hughes

Sir, William Rees-Mogg is right in pointing to the success of Singapore's Central Provident Fund and the potential for transplanting the concept to Britain. It is just one of several Singapore strategies which could work well here. But there is no chance of implementing most of them while Britain remains within the EU.

Thus, whilst Singapore might not

be able to manipulate the world econ-

omy, she has been able to aggressively pursue economic goals and sought after outcomes at home. This, of course, has all been helped by a highly regulated wage market, full employment and a predominantly young population.

The "tiger" economies have much to teach us but their example needs to be critically examined. In addition to Singapore's state-led successes new Labour should take account of European good practice in relying on the voluntary sector (which in Singapore is relatively small) to reflect Western social diversity and to ensure civil liberties.

In the meantime Lord Rees-Mogg is to be congratulated for raising the issue and Labour's front bench should be encouraged to learn what is best in the "tiger" experience.

Yours faithfully,  
DAVID HUGHES,  
13 Spring Lodge Close,  
Eastbourne, Sussex.

and temporarily achieving Singapore's federation with the Malaysian states. He saw no future for a tiny, independent Singapore. He subscribed to much the same line now pushed by the European federalists: going it alone was widely seen as an almost unthinkable option.

When the split with Malaysia came in 1965 Lee wept in front of the television cameras. Yet the same man went on to prove that a politically and economically independent Singapore could not only survive but prosper to an extent unimaginable thirty years ago.

The economic success of Singapore must surely say something to those who argue that Britain has no future outside a federal Europe. The analogy is not exact but it is close enough. If tiny Singapore (population barely 3 million) can thrive on its own, why should an independent Britain be just as little as 2300?

It is true that, perhaps as a result of parliamentary and other pressures, ministers have now agreed to retain, for three more years, another 400 of the 1,700 Gurkhas who are due for redundancy.

But with recruiting of first-class Gurkha material presenting no problem at all, as graphically illustrated in the film, compared to the present difficulties of British "teeth arms" recruitment, so severely damaged and run down owing to the savage government defence cuts, the question must be asked: "why only 400"? Surely at least one extra combat battalion of Gurkhas, some 700 to 800 strong, could be retained without difficulty.

Splitting 400 Gurkhas into small packets of platoon and company size to prop up understrength and poorly recruited British infantry battalions is not satisfactory.

A further battalion of Gurkhas, easily immediately available now, would go a considerable way to alleviate the ongoing overstretched and undermanned state of the British Army. This, combined with a major government-supported and financed national recruitment campaign is urgently needed to overcome severe manpower shortfalls.

Any government that slashes its defence forces to the brink has at least the duty to ensure its remaining combat units are fully manned and capable of operations from full strength. The nation has a right to expect nothing less.

The BBC film ended by quoting those splendid words: "The Gurkha, the bravest of the brave, never had a country more faithful friends than you. We really do treat our true friends in a most extraordinary way."

Yours etc.  
SLIM.  
House of Lords.  
January 3.

## Caring by numbers

From Mr Colin L. Bowater

Sir, My army number (letters, December 18, 27; January 3) is now more than 40 years old and I continue to use it daily: the last three digits for the combination lock on my briefcase, last four for my bank card PIN and all eight digits for the password on my computer.

I will never forget it and I don't need to write it down. On reflection, it's just about the most useful thing I brought with me into civvy street.

I am sure you will understand if I refrain from disclosing the number to you.

Yours faithfully,  
COLIN L. BOWATER,  
15 Grayburn Close,  
Chalfont St Giles,  
Buckinghamshire.  
January 3.

## Tall order

From Mr Ian Bryant

Sir, Mr Richard Anderson's suggestion (letter, December 29) that passengers might be prepared to pay a modest increase in fares for a bit more space will find no favour with scheme-dairies. They need to make economy class uncomfortable to persuade commercial travellers that the huge additional cost of flying club/business class is justified.

No finance director is going to sanction the extra cost if his executives can be expected to face foreign clients with bodies refreshed and brains sharp after relaxing flights in economy class.

But I am sure there's scope for charter airlines to charge more in return for more leg and seat room. Many people would be happy to pay £200 instead of £130 for a flight to the Canaries provided the seat space was designed for the average 5ft 10in. 12st man instead of for a juvenile contortionist.

Yours faithfully,  
IAN BRYANT,  
Hipping Hall,  
Cowan Bridge,  
Kirby Lonsdale, Cumbria.  
January 1.

## All in the mind

From Mr Gavin Littau

Sir, Mike Bennett, a fellow member of Mensa, states (letter, December 30) that genius is a quality ascribed to "those who have the ability to produce something new, something original". Might I seek the courtesy of your column to challenge this assertion?

In 1995 I composed five pieces for the piano in my spare time. The works are, admittedly, both new and original and, last May, I played two of them for the Mensa gala concert at the Royal College of Music.

However, I am certainly no musical genius; this demands exceptional creative power, such as that enjoyed by Bach, Beethoven and Mozart. There again, I could be a late developer.

Yours faithfully,  
GAVIN LITTAU,  
24 Stormont Road, Highgate, N6.  
January 1.

## Beauties as beasts

From Mr T. L. P. Ridge

Sir, While not wishing to contest the view of Ms Veronica Kish (letter, January 3) that there exists a "stereotype that good people are beautiful and bad people ugly", I think it rather extreme to suggest that the latest Bond film perpetuates this in that it features one scarred villain.

She may also have noticed that Bond's female adversaries, not only in *GoldenEye* but in countless earlier productions, were always beautiful and invariably evil.

Yours sincerely,  
STEPHEN COX,  
Eynhallow,  
Sandy Lane,  
Rushinkur, Farnham, Surrey.  
January 1.

## THE WATER PEOPLE

Aquarians are water-bearers, a cool, elemental occupation that may — with a little inventive updating of these mystic signs — be interpreted as the forerunner of science. The four elements, indeed, were the basis of all medieval speculation on the physical world, though most of the experiments by ancient doctors of physic were directed at transforming one element into another and, if possible, most of them into gold. Modern science is more diverse. But a cluster of modern scientists have been born under the water-bearing star, thereby endowing them, above all, with intellectual faculties, scepticism and a somewhat lukewarm temperament. Aquarians are consequently rather cold fish as lovers but ideally suited to hours in a sterile laboratory.

Thomas Edison, who brought music and light into the world with the electric lamp and the phonograph, was an Aquarian. So were Darwin and Galileo. These giants of electrophysics, zoology and astronomy have drawn the framework round our modern world. Who can forget the legend of the obstinate Italian dropping differently weighted balls from the Leaning Tower of Pisa to obscurantist sceptics below? Like many scientists, he had a spot of bother with

the authorities, in his case over the small question of whether the Sun went round the Earth or vice-versa. He recanted, and on his deathbed recanted his recantation — "eppur si muove". The lesson for those competing for research council grants, is that you can say what you like on television as long as you don't fake your test results.

Aquarians may be coolly rational, but with a ruling planet as frigid as Uranus and Pluto as a career planet, they are advised to avoid chilliness. The advice has fallen on some deaf ears. Shackleton, the Antarctic explorer, trudged a cold path to fame, and Charles Lindbergh cannot have been much warmer up alone in the clouds above the Atlantic. Livingston and Stanley, however, who were born and met under the same star, had less of a cold coming of it.

The record certainly shows Aquarians as pioneers. Three of the greatest American Presidents, Lincoln, Roosevelt and Reagan, were born in this month, though perhaps only one them — or, rather, his wife — bothered to consult the horoscope to learn its heavenly guidance. They were all, in their way, cool in the face of adversity; and indeed the world owes as much to a January temperament as it does to June fire.

## No need to choose

From Dr Malcolm Taylor

Sir, The Reverend Peter Evans asks (letter, December 30): "Is it truth or is it law that we hold dear?"

Since these concepts are not mutually exclusive would it not be preferable to cherish both?

Yours sincerely,  
MALCOLM TAYLOR,  
12 Salisbury Way,  
Astley, Manchester.

## Sports letters, page 30

Letters for publication should carry contact telephone numbers. We regret that we cannot accept letters by telephone but they may be sent by fax to 0171-782 5046.



## COURT CIRCULAR

**BUCKINGHAM PALACE**  
January 4 The Princess Royal this morning attended, as Principal Guest Speaker, the Fifth Oxford Farming Conference at the Buckingham Palace, High Street, Oxford, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant of Oxfordshire; Sir Ashley Powney.

The King of Spain celebrates his 80th birthday today.  
The Grand Duke of Luxembourg celebrates his 75th birthday today.

### Birthdays today

Mr Alfred Brendel, concert pianist, 65; Mr Tom Burke, environmentalist, 49; Mrs Jean Clark, president, National Council of Women of Great Britain, 61; Mr Terry Davis, MP, 38; the Earl of Dudley, 76; Sir Frank Hartley, former Vice-Chancellor, London University, 85; Sir Alan Hume, civil servant, 33; Miss Diane Keaton, actress, 50; Lord Kingsdown, KG, 69; Mrs Jan Leeming, broadcaster, 44; Sir Michael Palin, founder chairman, Board of Inland Revenue, 51; Maj-Gen. Sir Michael Rose, 56; General Sir John Stilbon, 81; the Hon Mrs Alison Wright, director-general, British Invisibles, 51; Lord Wyndham, 79.

### Anniversaries

**BIRTHS:** Jean-Baptiste Say, political economist, Lyons, 1767; Robert Morrison, founder of Protestant missions in China, Morpeth, 1822; John Burke, genealogist and founder of Burke's Peerage, 1787; King Camp Gillette, inventor of the safety razor, Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, 1888; Konrad Adenauer, first Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany, Westphalia, Cologne, 1949; Hubert Wolfe, poet, Milan, 1888; the died in London on January 5, 1949; Judd Loveland, surgeon and Olympic 150m gold medallist (1936), Washington, New Zealand, 1913; Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, Prime Minister of Pakistan 1971-77; Larkana, India, 1972.

**DEATHS:** Edward the Confessor, King of England, reigned 1042-66; Edmund, King of England, son of the steel porter Birmingham, 1173; Sir Ernest Shrubsole, explorer, South Georgia, Antarctica, 1922; Captain Cudlidge, 30th American President 1923-26; Northampton, Massachussetts, 1933; Amy Johnson, aviator, on a flight across the Thames Estuary, 1941; Signy Linton, boxer, Las Vegas, 1971.

Prof. Paul VI met Patriarch Athanasius I in Jerusalem, the first meeting between the leaders of the Roman Catholic and Orthodox churches in more than 500 years, 1964.

One-day cricket was born when England played Australia at Melbourne because the Test match had been abandoned after the previous day's rain, 1971.

### Luncheon

**Blacksmiths' Company**  
The High Commissioner for Canada was the guest of honour at the Epiphany luncheon of the Blacksmiths' Company held yesterday at Innsbald's Hall, Mr Clifford Champion, Prime Warden, presided.

## Guernsey keepers leave rock for the last time

By LEYLA LINTON

**KEEPERS** at the last manned rock lighthouse in the southern British Isles came ashore for the final time yesterday. Les Hanois, two miles off the coast of Guernsey, was built in 1862 and is now fully automated, its light controlled from Harwich.

The three keepers, looking tired and pleased to be leaving, were taken off the rock yesterday morning by helicopter. Dave Appleby, the principal lighthouse keeper who entered the profession 29 years ago, when oil lamps were still providing the light, said he had mixed feelings about leaving Les Hanois.

"It was my home for six months of the year. I felt glad to be going, but also sad. It was a special experience and a way of life, a Victorian way of life," he said.

"Lighthouse keepers who worked offshore got a lot of respect from those who worked onshore because it was just much tougher. Recently we have been surrounded by rough seas and fog, which is quite unusual. It made us feel more isolated."

Mr Appleby said he was relieved to be getting off the rock. "Les Hanois is very small and restricted. There is not much room in the tower at all, although one plus was that there was a small area where we could get out and sit in the sun in the summer."

The tower at Les Hanois reaches 105ft above high tide, its lamp has a range of 23 miles and there is a fog signal with a three-mile range.

In 1982, new technology and a desire to save money saw the start of conversion of lighthouses round the coast of the British Isles. All 348 will be automated by 1998.

The cost of paving keepers and flying them to Les Hanois



Ready for lift-off: keepers of Les Hanois lighthouse await the helicopter to take them ashore

was £100,000 a year. Automating the light will save £1 million over the next 15 years for Trinity House.

It will also mean six redundancies among lighthouse keepers, although the three keepers leaving Les Hanois will start work on other lighthouses after a break. Mr Appleby will move to St Catherine's on the Isle of Wight. Peter Bolton will go to Portland Bill in Dorset and

Dave McGovern will be based at Alderney.

Trinity House plans to complete the automation process of its 72 lighthouses in two years and stopped recruiting lighthouse keepers 15 years ago. However, lighthouses still attract people from all walks of life who continue to apply for jobs as keepers. A few manned lighthouses still exist in Britain: eight in England and Wales, three in

Ireland and 11 in Scotland, of which five are offshore.

"The idea of working in such isolation seems to appeal to them," says Howard Cooper, of Trinity House.

The image many people have of keepers as watchers of the sea is a romantic myth.

Mr Cooper said the role of

keepers was not to keep a

coastal lookout, but simply to

ensure that the light and the

fog signals were in operation.

## Schools news

### Queenswood School

The Spring Term at Queenswood School begins on Sunday, January 7, and ends on Saturday, March 2. The Queenswood Tennis Centre will be opened officially on Saturday, April 27.

The Queenswood Choral Week-end takes place from March 8-10, a weekend of rehearsals and a concert for performances of two Handel Coronation Anthems and Fucin's *Messa di Gloria*. Friends of the school welcome details from the Music Department.

The Queenswood Subscription Concert Series will continue this term; full details from the Music Department.

**Reed's School**

Spring Term begins on January 8 and ends on March 22 with Christopher Blimes continuing as School Captain and Robert Hilton, Captain of Hockey.

Present were Chairman and representatives from 24 Branches. The proceedings were chaired by Mr Geoffrey Shindler, the Chairman of the Society.

### Premium Bonds

The £1 million prize in the Premium Bond draw for January was won with a bond number 15EL 25720. The winner lives in Devon, and has a bond holding of £2,400. £100,000: 3SS5 09944; winner has a holding of £2,120 and comes from Hampshire; 1925 69599, £10,000, Dunbartonshire.

£50,000: 1MTW 582273, £1,400, East Sussex; 3D5 36595, 4,891, Shropshire; 200S 226938, 2,000, Shropshire; £25,000: bE6 04M98, £2,068, Gloucestershire; 3DL 92887, £25,000, West Glamorgan; 34NZ 721943, £2,000, Exeter; 12P 074720, £5,150, West Midlands.

Mr R.J. Devall and Miss E.C. Bewley

The engagement is announced between Richard James, younger son of Mr and Mrs Norman Devall, of Sutton Valence, Kent, and Elizabeth, daughter of Mr and Mrs Michael Payne, of Orton, Andorra.

Mr E.D.E. Knollys and Miss K.J. Audit

The engagement is announced between Dominic, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Geoffrey Knollys, of Salisbury, Wiltshire, and Katherine, daughter of Lieutenant Colonel and Mrs David Willott, of Weybridge, Surrey.

Mr R.J. King III and Miss G.L. Wade

The engagement is announced between Charles, youngest son of Mr and Mrs Simon Blumlein, of Petersfield, Hampshire, and Emma, elder daughter of Mr Paul Till, of Selbourne, Hampshire, and Mrs Carolyn Higton, of Petersfield, Hampshire.

Mr C.R.S. Blumlein and Miss E.E. Till

The engagement is announced between Charles, youngest son of Mr and Mrs Simon Blumlein, of Petersfield, Hampshire, and Emma, elder daughter of Mr Paul Till, of Selbourne, Hampshire, and Mrs Carolyn Higton, of Petersfield, Hampshire.

Mr J.M. Court and Miss K.D. Payne

The engagement is announced between James, younger son of Mr and Mrs Christopher Court, of Leigh, Kent, and Karen, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs Michael Payne, of Orton, Andorra.

Mr R. Dempster and Miss M.E. Foreman

The engagement is announced between Ross, son of Mr and Mrs William Dempster, of Corby, Northamptonshire, and Mary Elizabeth, daughter of Mr and Mrs Peter Foreman, of Guildford, Surrey.

Mr J.P. McFarlane and Miss S.G. Willis

The engagement is announced between Jonathan Peter, eldest son of Dr and Mrs T. McFarlane, of Didsbury, Manchester, and Stephannie Jane, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Robert Willis, of Gresford, near Wrexham.

Mr A.J. Moorhouse and Miss A.M.D. Willert

The engagement is announced between Timothy, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Simon Wood, of Exeter, Devon, and Alexandra, younger daughter of the late Mr Richard Willert and of Mrs Patricia Willert, of Pinney, Middlesex.

## Forthcoming marriages

### Mr N. Paine and Miss J. Walmsley

The engagement is announced between Nick, son of Mr and Mrs W.L. Paine, of Haslemere, Surrey, and Jayne, daughter of Mrs J. Walmsley, of Wistanstow, Cheshire.

### Mr A.J. Thompson and Miss R.J.H. Leddie

The engagement is announced between Alastair, younger son of Mr and Mrs Ian Thompson, of Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire, and Sophie, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Stuart Leddie, of Bridge of Allan, Stirlingshire and Hong Kong.

### Mr B.E.E. Vorley and Miss K. Greenbank

The engagement is announced between Brett Edmund Vorley, son of the late Mr and Mrs Ian Vorley, of Farborough, Hampshire, and Kate, only daughter of Mr and Mrs John Greenbank, of Haslingford, Cambridge.

### Mr R.E.H. West and Miss V. Younger

The engagement is announced between Robert, eldest son of Mr and Mrs J.A.H. West, of Remenham, Henley-on-Thames, and Vanessa, second daughter of Dr and Mrs D. Younger, of Makerstoun, Kelso.

### Mr T.M. Wood and Miss A.M.D. Willert

The engagement is announced between Timothy, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Simon Wood, of Exeter, Devon, and Alexandra, younger daughter of the late Mr Richard Willert and of Mrs Patricia Willert, of Pinney, Middlesex.

## Thanksgiving service

**Army Dental Service**  
A service of thanksgiving to mark the 75th anniversary of the Army Dental Service was held yesterday at the Royal Garrison Church of All Saints, Aldershot. The Rev R.A. Owen, CF, officiated. Brigadier C. Roberts, director, Army Dental Service, and Private L. Staley, Royal Army Dental Corps, read the lessons. The Rev Dr V. Dobbin, Chaplain General, gave an address. Afterwards Dr Dobbin unveiled commemorative windows and a bronze of a "Field Dental Team" in the Officers' Mess. Past and present members of the Army Dental Corps and the Royal Army Dental Corps were among those present.

## Church appointments

The Rev Dr Ian Jorysz, Assistant Curate, Ferryhill, St Luke (Durham); to be Priest-in-charge, South Weald, St Peter, and the Bishop of Bradwell's Research Officer (Chelmsford).

### Mr N.J. Redmond and Miss P.L. Rae

The engagement is announced between Nicholas Jon, son of Patrick and Patricia Redmond, of Erdington, New Zealand, and Rebecca Lucy, daughter of John and Anne Rae, St Albans, Hertfordshire.

### Mr G.R.I. Savory and Miss K. Crocker

The engagement is announced between Giles, son of Mr and Mrs David Savory, of Dorstone, Herefordshire, and Kim, daughter of the late Mr Raymond Crocker and of Mrs Peter Deal, of Crumlin, Essex.

### Mr R.J. Humphrey and Miss J.C. Farrant

The engagement is announced between James, youngest son of Mr and Mrs David Humphrey, of Itchen Abbas, Hampshire, and Joanna, elder daughter of Mr Edward Farrant, of St Victor de Reno, France, and Mrs Marion Fuller, of Goudhurst, Kent.

### Mr R. St. Johnston and Miss V.K. Stillwell

The engagement is announced between Rory, younger son of Sir Kerry St. Johnston, of Frampton Mansell, and Mrs Judy St. Johnston, of Chelsea, and Victoria, daughter of Mr and Mrs Michael Stillwell, of Petworth, Sussex.

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### Mr R. St. Johnston and Miss V.K. Stillwell</



# THE TIMES TODAY

FRIDAY JANUARY 5 1996

## NEWS

### Stock Exchange chief sacked

■ Michael Lawrence, the £342,000-a-year Chief Executive of the London Stock Exchange, was dismissed after a revolt by several powerful stockbroking firms.

The reason given by the Stock Exchange for the unexpected dismissal of Mr Lawrence was a "loss of confidence". John Kemp-Welch, Chairman of the Stock Exchange, admitted that the departure of the second chief executive to be sacked in two and a half years, was "a setback".

Page 1

### Blair promises low taxes

■ Tony Blair promised low taxes and low inflation in a Labour-run Britain. In his most audacious move yet to capture the Conservative mantle for competence, he told Far East businessmen that a Labour government would be better placed than the Tories to keep Britain competitive.

Page 1

### Thatcher on attack

Baroness Thatcher has joined General Sir Peter de la Billière, Britain's Gulf War commander, in criticising the RAF's low-level bombing tactics during the 1991 conflict.

Page 1

### War crimes case

The first man in Britain to face prosecution for alleged Nazi crimes was discharged on one of the four counts of murder allegedly committed in German-occupied Eastern Europe.

Page 5

### Universities threat

Universities are threatening to admit more foreign students and turn away British undergraduates this year in protest at a funding squeeze.

Page 6

### Paper tigers

The Government and Labour have locked horns on the critical battleground of the election campaign: the economy. The weapons are statistics, marshalled in newspaper advertisements.

Page 8

### Private welfare

Labour leaders are to examine plans for privatising the £90-billion welfare budget.

Page 2

### Kicked to death

The twin brother of a 19-year-old shopworker from Stratford-upon-Avon, who was kicked to death by a gang of youths taunting his father, wept as he told of his family's grief.

Page 3

### Princess hits out

The Princess Royal criticised the water industry for allowing a year of shortages in a country with abundant rainfall.

Page 4

### Heaps of money

Camelot put £60 million on display to show the nation what it would be playing for in this weekend's lottery. Deep below the Royal Bank of Scotland in north London, bundles of £10 notes were piled 5ft 4in high, 13ft 6in wide and 3ft 4in deep.

Page 4

### Arson fear

The mysterious death of Jean Schilling, one of France's top chefs, who invented some of the most aromatic sauces, is believed to have involved crime.

Page 11

### Deportation fight

A Saudi Arabian dissident who faces deportation to the Caribbean island of Dominica, said that he would take his fight to the High Court.

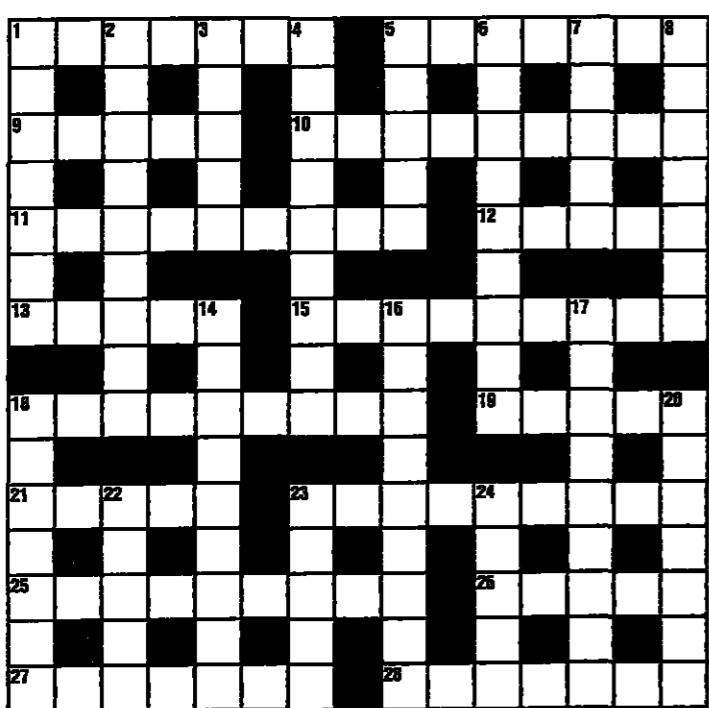
Page 9

### Chewing over the secret of success

■ After 115 years scientists have been called in, with the aid of £750,000, to discover the secret behind the chewy Rowntree fruit pastille. Nestle's York-based research centre and the Applied Biology department at the city's university have joined forces to find out just what makes them taste so good. The pastille was created from an old cooking recipe.

Page 1

## THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,056



**ACROSS**

- Saw typical dog restrained by lead (7).
- Right treatment for a case — she's supposedly blind (7).
- I may arrange to supply period books (5).
- Royal staff require training in two points (9).
- Retirement cover for person at the top (9).
- Article about a new role for Macbeth? (5).
- Positive call — a run snatched — they eventually make centuries! (5).
- Having called in, anaesthetised an exotic creature (5-4).
- Styling of a long coat, not short on sides (9).
- Clear away the mess made by second youngster (3,2).
- Very authoritative pronouncement, shortly, in old language (5).
- If pushed, one may turn blades against blades (4-5).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,055

**ZILLION REDUCED**  
E E L L Y E U I I  
ANGELCAKE LOTUS  
L L A R V L P  
OVERT TEMPERATE  
T S E H U S N  
ASSAFEASHOUSES  
P S B I V E  
LETTER OF CREDIT  
E R N G R E A  
BRASSIERE T W E R  
E F I N R I  
INFER OBTUSIVE  
A J U N I M A C  
NECKTIE EXPANSIE

25 Strong woman's in a muddle, mostly to do with Scotsman (9).

26 Quartet of Tchaikovsky's you heard? What poetry? (5).

27 Some of side suffering reversed given out (7).

28 Obvious occasion to hide basic instincts (7).

**DOWN**

1 Philanderer's surprised expression following drama (7).

2 Something outstanding about rough outline (9).

3 Player occasionally making a run? (5).

4 Analysis of mechanical failure (9).

5 Military group has a climbing expedition (5).

6 Plan showing layers of rock and stone (9).

7 One takes over half of outlandish resort (5).

8 Artist using paint, see, without a modification (7).

9 It's wise to give way over bill, with promises to pay (9).

10 A useful thing when making charge, including small discount (9).

11 Use a keyboard to insert legal document into Melville's book (9).

12 Get around or possibly above it (7).

13 Type of flooring that's standard — noiseless one not required (7).

14 Small conflict in the outskirts of Düsseldorf (5).

15 Northern VIP put in position to host monarch? (5).

16 I had radio but turn up *Messiah* (5).

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Deportation of dissident could bring multibillion pound sales for UK

## Path cleared for huge Saudi deals

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

THE Government's decision to deport Saudi dissident Mohammed al-Mas'ari clears the way for British companies to complete multibillion sales of aircraft and armoured vehicles to Saudi Arabia. Britain's biggest single arms customer.

British Aerospace (BAe) is believed to be closest to securing a deal to sell ten Avro RJSS regional jets to Saudi Arabian airlines (Saudia) for about £160 million while British

armoured manufacturers are bidding to sell up to £3 billion worth of armoured vehicles to the country's national guard.

Vickers, which is hoping to sell Saudi Arabia 230 Challenger 2 tanks, earning the company up to £1 billion, said it had expressed concern when approached by the Government for its views on the problems. Dr al-Mas'ari's presence in Britain created. Officials at BAe have also privately expressed concern about the effect Saudi dissident

based in London have been having on their business prospects.

Saudi Arabia is a crucial customer for BAe, which already supplies it with Tornado fighter-bombers and maintenance support for its air force. A decision from Saudiia on the regional jet tender is expected shortly.

Apart from BAe subsidiary Avro, other companies bidding to supply regional aircraft are understood to be Saab, Canadair and Fokker.

BAe took orders for 50 regional jets last year from Cross Air, part of Swiss Air, Air Malta, Lufthansa and Sabena. Production is 18 per year but could be stepped up if demand justified.

Under the 1988 al-Yamamah 2 arms deal BAe is supplying 48 Rolls-Royce powered Tornados worth £5 billion to Saudi Arabia. It supplied 72 Tornados under the original 1985 arms-for-oil deal. Saudi Arabia is the world's largest oil exporter.

wielding enormous influence within Opec and the oil markets. Although arms are Britain's most important export to Saudi Arabia, British construction and manufacturing companies also sell there. Ann Widdecombe, Home Office Minister, said: "British interests as a whole do require his removal. We have got enormous export considerations."

Defence industry sources expect a decision from the Saudis in the next 12 to 18 months on the order for

Vickers' Challenger 2 tanks. Warrior vehicles made by GKN, Alvis Stormer armoured cars and AS90 self-propelled howitzers made by VSEL, a GEC subsidiary.

The problems of relations with Saudi Arabia has obviously put a brake on a lot of negotiations." Nicholas de Jongh, a spokesman for GKN said. "As al-Mas'ari is appealing, which might take some time, whatever might have been discussed is still on hold."

### BUSINESS ROUNDUP

## New plant to boost British Steel output

BRITISH STEEL is poised to increase its output of steel for cars by making a million tonnes a year after what it claims to be the fastest building of a particular coker plant by any steelmaker. The company — which is challenging in the European Court an EU move, whose way was smoothed by the British Government, to sanction subsidies to Irish Steel — has started not commissioning of the coker plant at Llanwern just over a year after starting to build it. Equipment from the defunct Raverscraig steelworks helped to cut the cost of the development, which is to be followed by a fresh blast-furnace. Overall the work cost about £22 million.

The new coker removes a big capacity constraint at Llanwern. It will allow British Steel to lift production there to three million tonnes a year, to be made on a flexible basis to cope with changing demands in the automotive market. Separately, British Steel said that it has no plans to match a 3 per cent price rise by a US competitor. *Tempus, page 22*

## BMW pulls ahead

BMW, the German car company that owns Rover, increased its sales by 3 per cent in 1995, while sales of Rovers grew 2 per cent thanks to strong growth in worldwide sales of Land Rovers. BMW sales in 1995 totalled 574,000, while Rover sales were 358,000. BMW's motorcycle division performed well, with sales up 7 per cent at 46,500. Land Rover sales increased 35 per cent to 127,000, offsetting an otherwise disappointing year for Rover, which saw sales decline in both the UK and Europe. Its market share slipped below 10 per cent in the UK for the first time.

## Devro placing backed

DEVRO INTERNATIONAL, the food manufacturer, said that its \$133.5 million acquisition of Teepak International has moved ahead with almost 86.9 per cent backing for its placing and open offer by investors. The £-for-\$1 offer of placing at 230p a share was designed to cover the \$46 million cash part of the deal. The 13.1 per cent of shares not taken up will be placed with institutions. The rest is being satisfied by the issue of 10.4 million shares and \$52.3 million convertible preference shares to the vendors. The acquisition is due to be completed today.

## Brent sells again

BRENT INTERNATIONAL, the chemicals company, has continued its programme of simplifying and focusing its business with the sale of non-core businesses and surplus property assets for £7.5 million. Brent has sold its Asian industrial chemicals business, its remaining interests in aerospace equipment sales and its freehold interests in Paris and Ghent. It has also entered into a sale-and-leaseback agreement on a property in Mönchengladbach, Germany. The net proceeds of £4.5 million will be used to reduce borrowings. The shares rose 12p to 84p.

## No Merrydown swap

MERRYDOWN, the cider maker, announced yesterday that it is not planning a share exchange with Two Dogs International, the Australian alcoholic lemonade company. Merrydown, which is the licensed manufacturer and distributor of Two Dogs for the United Kingdom and Europe said that it had "no present intention" of entering into any such agreement. Richard Purdy, the chairman, said: "We will naturally keep the question of possible closer involvement with Two Dogs under continual review."

## Blue Bird purchase

BLUE BIRD, the confectionery company famed for its toffee with the hammer, has bought Needlers from Nidar of Norway as part of its European expansion programme. Blue Bird, now part of the Singaporean Jack Chia-MPH Group, last year celebrated its centenary by returning to profitability for the first time in 15 years. In 1995 it also bought the French companies Kestelot and Société Européenne de Confiserie as part of the group's plan to lift its European retail sales to £75 million. Blue Bird now operates ten confectionery companies in seven countries and plans further acquisitions.

## PIA expels member

THE Personal Investment Authority, watchdog for firms that sell direct to the public, has expelled one member and rejected the application for membership of another. MJ Planning, of Salford, Bristol, had its authorisation to conduct investment business withdrawn after the sole trader, Michael Giblin, was declared bankrupt. Saxon Investments, of Bexhill-on-Sea, East Sussex, has had its application to join the PIA rejected after failing, despite reminders, to provide information requested by the regulator. The PIA has rejected or expelled a total of 20 firms.

## Shimizu invests in Wales

SHIMIZU, the Japanese company that manufactures plastic products for the automotive and domestic electronic appliance markets, yesterday announced a £5 million investment in Newtown, Mid Wales. The announcement marks the first direct Japanese investment in rural Wales and it will result in the creation of 45 jobs. The company will begin production later this month. Shimizu's main customer is Nippon Denso, of Telford, an automotive component manufacturer, which now owns 20 per cent of Shimizu's shares.

## 'Inadequate' power plans criticised

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

FRESH fears were yesterday added to the concern over the electricity industry's preparation for open competition when customers will be able to buy power from whoever they choose.

After worries voiced by ministers and consumer groups, an energy consultancy condemned the plans to be implemented in 1998 as inadequate and potentially a poll tax on

consumers. The electricity pool, which is responsible for pricing and settling transaction costs for power, has voiced its own fears that the industry is not gearing up sufficiently with the technology and other requirements to begin the market.

Offer said that the EEE Group, which has advised on power industry restructuring in the US and which is headed by Alex Henney, a former electricity consumer adviser in the UK. The report said: "With many sectors of the industry dissenting from the proposals, and

## Ford targets Indian car market

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

FORD is linking with Mahindra & Mahindra, the Indian manufacturer, to establish a Ford Fiesta factory in the southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu.

Ford plans to invest \$800 million, its largest investment in the sub-continent to date. The new factory will be based outside Madras, the capital of Tamil Nadu. The annual production target is 100,000 and the first Fiesta is expected to roll off the production line in 1998.

A smaller plant is also being built in Madras to assemble Ford Escorts from kits and should be open by the end of the

year. Ford has been attracted to southern India by the proximity of India's major auto-components manufacturers.

Ford is confident that the Fiesta will make the transition from Dagenham to Delhi and will find favour with India's rapidly expanding middle class. There has been an explosion in consumer credit in the last few years, with car loans readily available from banks as the middle class has taken advantage of economic reforms. India is now ranked as the world's sixth-largest country in terms of consumer purchasing power.

Foreign carmakers are racing into India and car output has doubled in just three years to around 300,000 vehicles a year. Production is expected to grow to around one million by the end of the century. Honda of Japan, Daewoo of Korea and Peugeot of France already have factories, with Chrysler, America's resurgent number three carmaker, looking to make an entry this year.

But car ownership still remains relatively small for a country with an estimated population of one billion: bicycles and motor scooters still vastly outnumber cars. There are around 24 million scooters, compared with just 3.5 million cars. Ford and its rivals believe all that could soon change.

## Inchcape sells colony HQ

By ROSS TIEMAN

INCHCAPE, the debt-laden international car distribution and services group, has sold the headquarters of its Hong Kong subsidiary, to raise £5.6 million. The cash will be used to relocate that part of the business and cut borrowings.

Inchcape's regularisation of its 1995 results will be held on March 12. The company has agreed to pay a dividend of 10 pence per share, up from 5 pence in 1994.

Shareholders will receive a 50 per cent reduction in the dividend, which will be paid on March 12.

Notices are subject to confirmation and should be received by 2.30pm two days prior to insertion.

Save up to 30% on your home insurance.

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**Guardian Direct**

## Demand for long-haul seats helps BA to record

By MARIANNE CURPHEY

STRONG demand for long-haul traffic helped British Airways to fill a record number of seats on its aircraft for the fifth successive quarter.

Passenger traffic in the three months to December 31 increased 8.7 per cent while aircraft, on average, were 70.6 per cent full — a record level.

BA's routes to New York and Paris remained the most popular; club and first class passengers grew 8 per cent.

### TOURIST RATES

Bank	Bank
Buy	Sell
1.78	1.94
16.78	15.29
49.11	44.81
2.21	2.05
0.20	0.19
5.20	5.50
7.31	6.68
8.08	7.42
2.51	2.49
300.00	365.00
12.64	11.84
1.02	0.94
5.00	4.90
252.00	239.00
17.60	16.60
0.56	0.53
2.05	2.05
2.51	2.28
10.47	9.67
24.50	22.80
1.50	1.58
19.00	18.00
10.70	10.70
Switzerland Fr	Switzerland Fr
10.49	10.49
8874.90	8874.90
1.849	1.519

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.



Women workers in kimonos lead the ceremony to open 1996 trading on the Tokyo Stock Exchange. The Nikkei rose 749.85 to 20,618, its highest close since September 1994

### LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

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#### LEGAL NOTICES

##### THE RESTRICTIVE PRACTICES COURT (IN ENGLAND AND WALES)

In the Matter of the RESELLING PRICES ACT 1976 and in the Matter of the BOOKS AND DOCUMENTS (PRICE CONTROL) ORDER 1976 and in the Matter of the RESTRICTIVE TRADE PRACTICES ACT 1976 and in the Matter of the NET BOOK PRICE AGREEMENT 1987

Notice is hereby given that on 12 December 1995 there was issued out of the said Court by the Registrar in the name of the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, a Notice of Application for an order discharging the Order made on 14 March 1986 in accordance with section 10(1) of the Net Book Price Agreement 1987 ("the NBPA")

(1) discharging the booksellers, bookshops, publishers and wholesalers, all within heading 49.01 of the Convention on Non-Member for the Classification of Goods in Customs Tariffs ("the Harmonized System"), from the restrictions imposed by the NBPA relating to the sale of books, bookshops and wholesalers, all within heading 49.01 of the Harmonized System ("the Booksellers, bookshops and wholesalers, all within heading 49.01 of the Harmonized System");

(2) discharging the publishers, other than printing or drawing books, bookshops and wholesalers, all within heading 49.02 of the Harmonized System ("the Publishers, other than printing or drawing books, bookshops and wholesalers, all within heading 49.02 of the Harmonized System");

(3) discharging the booksellers, bookshops and wholesalers, all within heading 49.03 of the Harmonized System ("the Booksellers, bookshops and wholesalers, all within heading 49.03 of the Harmonized System");

(4) discharging the booksellers, bookshops and wholesalers, all within heading 49.04 of the Harmonized System ("the Booksellers, bookshops and wholesalers, all within heading 49.04 of the Harmonized System");

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THE TIMES FRIDAY JANUARY 5 1996

□ Last orders for Exchange chief □ Bringing competition into the power business □ Weighing up the options over Forte

□ THERE was something chillingly brutal about the dismissal of Michael Lawrence yesterday. None of the usual "seeking other business opportunities", no attempt to deny a rift or gild the *curriculum vitae* for the benefit of future employers.

No, he was shot "with immediate effect" because the rest of the board did not want him around any more. This is the way we treat the servant classes. Mr Lawrence was the grammar school oak turned insurance salesman brought in from outside to clear up the mess the last outsider left when he too was shown the door.

He was not part of the City club, unlike the grandees that appointed him, and so was not entitled to the normal courtesies they would expect. Mr Lawrence, most avow, could be difficult, and he did not always carry his colleagues with him. But the danger in firing any chief executive under such circumstances is that it does rather detract from those measures they were brought in by the rest of the board to put into effect, thus tarring all concerned with the same brush.

The trick is to imply that the bust-up was purely personal. So the City newswires were buzzing last night with those ever-useful

## Merry Christmas, Mr Lawrence

"sources close the LSE board" saying the dispute "was more about personalities than policies". Meanwhile there would be no change to stated policy.

When news of the sacking broke, observers wondered just what had been the breaking point in the relationship between Mr Lawrence and the Exchange. The most obvious own goal was the spat with Sharelink that threatened to make the Exchange a laughing stock.

But more damaging has been the behind-the-scenes warfare over the switch from today's quote-driven system of trading, whereby market-makers display the price at which they will buy and sell stock to all and sundry, to an order-driven system. Under the latter, the two sides to a matched bargain conduct it electronically, and the price at which they deal moves in the indicated share price.

This is the way New York and continental bourses work, and in the American houses trading in the City since Big Bang have

long wanted it here. It is anathema to the traditional market-makers because it wipes out their role. The Exchange said at the end of November it would be progressing towards an order-driven system, prompting disaffection among the old guard and some cynicism as to the pace of that progress.

The next few months will see whether that cynicism was justified. Will it be, as the Exchange chairman says, vigorous strides towards "full electronic trading and order matching"? Or will the grandees echo St Augustine: "Oh Lord, give me order-driven trading — but not yet."

A whimper rather than a big bang

□ WHEN your throat is about to be cut, you do not rush to help to sharpen the knife. Little wonder, then, that the electricity industry is not falling over itself to speed the process towards open competition in 1998

the industry stumbled out of bed one day into a whole new world of administrative problems, disputed power charges and technological inadequacies.

He was criticised then for entering the debate far too late in the day, and he has not learnt. The matter of who will pay for implementing the mechanics of competition has not been settled, even though the bill, estimated at more than £300 million, was supposed to have been assigned by the end of the year. The electricity companies are keen it should not fall to them. Why should their shareholders pay to help other companies to take their power from anyone?

Now even Stephen Littlechild, whose job it is to ensure the whole thing happens, has measurably shuffled his feet and suggested the industry might please if it can see its way clear — get a move on.

He is anxious to avoid the fiasco of 1994, when the electricity market for large users was opened up to competition in a wholly unprepared fashion, and

mand the companies begin making progress, rather than merely asking them politely to hasten their commercial eclipse.

### Granada needs to cast a new spell

□ GERRY ROBINSON may reflect that life is unfair as he mulls over a higher Granada bid for Forte this weekend. Forte's defence has been so drastic that a slimmed down company would have more margin for error than a stretched Granada-cum-Forte. The City, including many institutions with shares in both, seems to prefer the version produced by long-term laggard Forte to that dreamt up by fast-moving winner Granada.

The institutions are now much taken with the option, suggested in this column, of Mr Robinson buying only the catering businesses he knows. Instead he claims blithely that international hotels, like television, require no special expertise and that simple

universal management techniques to cut costs and raise prices will widen margins.

Granada can still step back and aim instead to top the conditional sale of Forte's roadside restaurants and motorway stops to Whitbread. Any such offer is not certain to succeed. Contracts allow Whitbread to share any premium and Granada cannot add Forte's motorway business to its own.

The odds are still on pride requiring a higher bid. But if Mr Robinson really believes that no industry is unique and that his team can weave magic with margins, he could think laterally and buy top contractor Amec's £2 billion-a-year turnover for little more than petty cash.

### Common currency

□ AFTER claims that the majority of businesses think a common Euro-currency a ripping wheeze, the latest dispatch from the surveys front suggests that, indeed, most of the actual public both understand and support the European Union and EMU, partial or not. Where do they find such surveys? In this case, on the pay-roll of something called the European Movement. Which explains a lot.

## Morgan Stanley increases its income to \$187m

BY PATRICIA TEHAN AND JON ASHWORTH

MORGAN Stanley, the US investment banking giant, increased its net income 58 per cent to \$187 million in the fourth quarter of the year.

The figure compares with \$118 million in the quarter to end-October 1994, since Morgan Stanley changed its year-end from January to November last year.

Net income for the tenth fiscal year to November 30 was \$600 million, or \$6.96 per common share. Net revenues for the period were \$3.6 billion and fully diluted earnings per share were \$6.65.

Richard Fisher, chairman, said that the strong results followed "a difficult period in 1994". He said investment banking revenue increased thanks to "buoyant mergers and acquisitions markets around the world" and a strong year for underwriting, particularly equity issues.

He said: "We remain committed to our long-term strategy of expanding and enhancing our presence around the world."

Morgan Stanley yesterday sought to distance itself from court action in Luxembourg stemming from the collapse of



Lee investigating

a \$120 million offshore fund. A group of investors is suing the bank for alleged gross negligence over valuations provided for The Global Opportunity Fund, to which Morgan Stanley Banque Luxembourg was administrator and custodian.

The fund was managed in London by a firm called InterCapital Asset Management and domiciled in the Cayman Islands. Morgan Stanley in London provided loans to allow investors to gear up their holdings, and made a market in Italian warrants held by fund.

Court proceedings were initiated in December after settlement discussions broke down. The timetable for the case will be spelt out in Luxembourg today. The lawsuit alleges negligence by Morgan Stanley relating principally to the overvaluation of the fund, which collapsed in February 1995 after a series of redemptions by investors.

Rakinsons, the London-based law firm, and Bonn & Schnitt, a Luxembourg firm, are acting on behalf of investors, who allege losses of up to \$70 million.

Lee & Allen, a London forensic accounting firm, has been retained to investigate alleged irregularities in the fund.

□ Lehman Brothers, the US financial institution, increased its net income by 50 per cent to \$69 million in the fourth quarter to November after a \$58 million charge for occupancy-related property expenses and severance payments.

The charge was partly offset by a gain of \$47 million on the sale of Lehman's stake in Omnitel Sistemi Radiocellulari Italiani. For the year to November, net income more than doubled from \$113 million to \$242 million on total revenues of \$3.1 billion, up from \$2.7 billion.

### Halifax set to expand insurance

Halifax, the UK's largest building society, confirmed yesterday it is prepared to buy a mutual insurance company to enhance its own Halifax Life, launched a year ago.

A spokesman said: "We know there are a number of opportunities in the marketplace and have looked at some of them. If we do buy anything it will have to be at the right price and fit in with our existing business strategy."

### BR signals sale

British Rail has completed the sale of its second signalling and contracting business, Interlogic Control Engineering, to ABB Daimler-Benz Transportation, which rivals GEC-Alsthom as one of Europe's largest rail-equipment businesses. Interlogic employs a total of 420.

### Druck ahead

A strong order book, fuelled by a rise in exports, helped pre-tax profits at Druck Holdings, which makes electronic pressure sensors and transducers, to jump 69 per cent to £4.4 million in the six months to September 30. Sales advanced 34 per cent to £22.7 million. The interim dividend is raised to 5p (4.1p), payable on February 19, from earnings per share of 43.1p (26.1p).

### Mirror deal

A compensation deal has been struck between Mirror Group newspapers and Nightshift, a distribution service that handled *The Independent* before Mirror Group bought 43 per cent of the newspaper in 1994. Payment details were not disclosed.

### Retailer closer to relisting

BY SARAH BAGNALL

ATTEMPTS to rescue Owen & Robinson, the sportswear retailer, took a step forward yesterday when it emerged that a former chairman had paid £5.5 million for a large chunk of the company's debt and shares.

The move clears the way for the company's shares to be relisted after a five-month suspension and ends the company's short-lived involvement

with Philip Green, the flamboyant former head of Amber Day, the discount clothing chain renamed WEW.

Morris Dwel, a former chairman, succeeded in raising funds to acquire the debt and a 16 per cent equity stake in the company from Mr Green.

Mr Green acquired £6 million of the company's debt at a discount from TSB last July. At the same time, he acquired the shares. He is thought to have made a small profit on the deal.

### SelectTV decision next week

BY ERIC REGULY

PEARSON, the media group that owns the *Financial Times* and Penguin books, will decide next week whether to bid for SelectTV, the television company that made *Lovejoy* and *Birds of a Feather*. A decision to proceed with the £45 million deal is said to hinge on whether it can line up buyers for the parts of SelectTV it does not want.

Pearson wants SelectTV's library and production arm, but not its cable channel or its 15 per cent interest in Meridian Broadcasting.

MAI, the ITV company that already owns 6 per cent of Meridian, is the logical buyer for the stake. Carlton Broadcasting, owner of the London weekday franchise, has been in talks with Pearson to buy SelectTV's cable channel, but is unlikely to commit itself unless it can find a distribution outlet for the channel.



### Pretty soon, you won't need an advertisement to tell you who United Utilities are.

It is our aim to represent, on an international stage, the best in British industry.

#### Who are we?

You probably remember that last November North West Water PLC acquired Norweb PLC.

Shortly those names will cease to exist on the Stock Exchange.

On the 1st January 1996 an exciting new name appeared.

#### United Utilities.

It is the UK's first multi-utility company. Comprised of water, electricity, gas and telecommunications.

If a company of this stature was launched in America there would be a ticker tape parade.

#### Today, the world.

Internationally the opportunities are very exciting indeed. United Utilities already has the strength and expertise to compete globally.

In the USA we have forged a strategic alliance with Bechtel, one of the world's largest construction companies.

This partnership, which allows us to bid for and win worldwide contracts, is called International Water.

World Bank figures confirm that internationally there are business opportunities for utility companies worth more than \$600 billion.

#### Take water for example.

Only 2% of the world's waste water benefits from any kind of treatment.

And only 30% of the world's population has the luxury of drinking water from a tap.

Wouldn't you like a British company to compete for that business?

#### Strength and depth.

North West Water is the third biggest water company in the world.

Serving 7 million people in the UK and perhaps more surprisingly, we have contracts to serve 21 million more worldwide.

It is rated by OFWAT as the nation's most efficient water company.

With the bigger environmental improvement

programme and the third lowest water charges.

Norweb on the other hand is the lowest cost provider of electricity in the UK.

Its electrical retailing arm has embraced the whole country. It is now the third biggest.

And it might surprise you to learn that it is also a telecommunications company and a provider of gas, supplying 5000 industrial sites throughout the UK.

#### A perfect marriage.

With North West Water and Norweb there was true synergy. Two utilities companies in the same geographical area.

While as individual businesses they were certainly successful, together, as one force they will be unbeatable.

Of course, between them, North West Water and Norweb have a good deal of heritage.

Which is why both will continue to trade under these names.

#### Everyone benefits.

The company as a whole will bring together common services to provide greater efficiency.

Which, for 7 million people in the UK, will mean a higher standard of service and a progressive reduction in water and electricity costs.

We'll also be continuing with the ground breaking rebase scheme pioneered by North West Water.

The savings made from the greater efficiency of the company are shared with customers and shareholders.

And, for our shareholders, we are committed to providing a healthy return on their investment.

#### A bright future.

Bringing together North West Water and Norweb to form one bigger and stronger utilities company will benefit our customers.

It will benefit our shareholders.

It will benefit our employees.

And as a British company, competing and winning on the world stage, it will benefit the economy too.

We're ready to take on the world.

UNITED UTILITIES PLC. DAWSON HOUSE, GREAT SANKEY, WARRINGTON, WA5 3LW.

YOUR CHANCE TO BECOME AN INSTANT MILLIONAIRE

## 10,000 Lottery tickets to be won

First prize in the Lottery could now be as much as £40 million and *The Times* has entered 10,000 tickets in Saturday's draw for readers to win, for an even better chance of hitting the jackpot. Our prizes will be allocated like this:

One first prize of 5,000 £1 tickets

Five runners-up prizes of 1,000 £1 tickets

*The Times* will hold the randomly generated numbers on computer which will work out if any are winners. If they are, the readers who won *Times* tickets will be contacted. Every day

## STOCK MARKET

## GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE

# Deportation order boosts defence companies shares

SHARES with a defence bias received a lift after the Home Office issued a deportation order to a leading Saudi Arabian dissident who has been a thorn in the side of British-Saudi relations for some time.

The move is said to have been prompted by pressures from the Riyadh regime, the US Government and British arms companies.

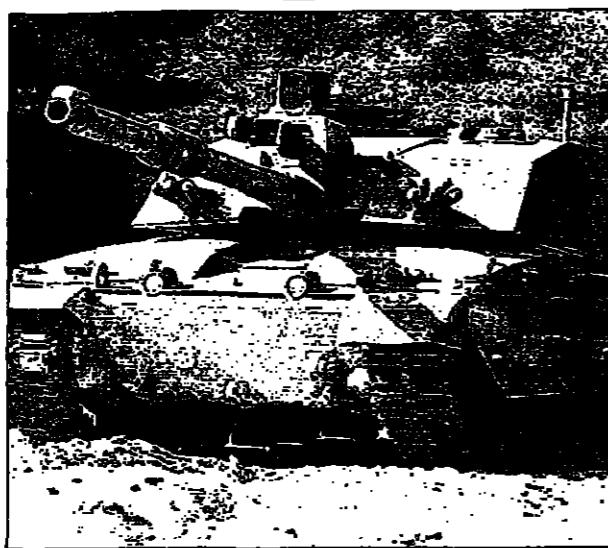
City analysts said the order to deport Mohammed al-Mas'ari, a Saudi Arabian dissident who is head of an influential London-based Islamic opposition group, will boost hopes of those bidding for major Middle East contracts. There were gains for those expected to be the main beneficiaries, with British Aerospace, also helped by a Merrill Lynch recommendation and recent orders for the Airbus consortium in which it is a partner, up 18p to 506p, GEC 8½p to 350½p, GKN 10p to 799p, and Vickers which is hoping to win orders for Challenger tanks, 2p stronger at 259p.

Meanwhile, leading shares paused for breath after Wednesday's Wall Street-inspired advance, though a firm bond market and numerous special situations driven by bid speculation and broker recommendations kept secondary issues alive.

The market was not affected by news that Michael Lawrence was forced to resign as chief executive of the London Stock Exchange after the Exchange's board lost confidence in him. The City views his departure as a setback for those hoping to see order-driven dealing.

A positive start on Wall Street had little impact on sentiment in late London trading. The FT-SE 100 index traded in a narrow range, but touched a new intra-day trading high of 3,723.0 before ending down 15 at 3,714.1. Second-liners enjoyed a better run, with the FT-SE Mid 250 index rising 17.5 to 4,071.4. Volume reached 735.2 million shares.

British Airways soared 18p higher to 486p, on volume of 11.2 million shares, after UBS upgraded its profit forecasts for the next two years and moved its recommendation on the stock from hold to buy. Richard Hannah at UBS has increased his current year pretax profit estimate for the year to March 31 by £10 million to



The Home Office move should help Challenger tank orders

£580 million, with next year's forecast raised by £40 million to £660 million.

Mr Hannah attributes the upgrades to better-than-expected volume growth and less pessimism about pressures on the pricing side.

Courtaulds added 15p to 432p, with the shares boosted by a positive note from SBC Warburg, but RTZ eased 6p to 203½p.

National Power dimmed 8p to 452p and PowerGen 8p to 520p, with talk that Goldman Sachs was leading a switch out of the UK generators, but the Scottish generators benefited as Credit Lyonnais Laing recommended Scottish Hydro, up 7p to 367p, and Scottish Power, ahead 9p to 384p.

913p after a Kleinwort Benson downgrade.

British Steel saw the biggest percentage rise among FT-SE stocks, hardening 64p to 1634p, or 4.2 per cent, on heavy volume of 15.3 million shares, on the back of firmer steel prices in the United States.

US selling and UK buying resulted in Hanson rising 6p to 203½p, on heavy

volume of 20.8 million shares traded — the day's biggest individual volume.

Forte eased 2p to 342½p on the growing expectation that it will fend off Granada's hostile £3.3 billion bid, though there was also disappointment that the television to leisure group has not yet come up with an increased offer. The City has given a largely positive reaction to Forte's robust final defence document issued earlier in the week. Granada, up 3½p to 653p, or 4.2 per cent, on heavy volume of 15.3 million shares, on the back of firmer steel prices in the United States.

Elsewhere, break-up speculation surrounding Thorne EMI set shares in the music

to-rentals group 50p higher to 155.88, with some brokers saying that the stock will be worth 119p a share after the proposed demerger of its music and rentals businesses later in the year.

Back on the profits warning front, Jacques Vert was the day's biggest casualty, as shares in the fashion group dived 66p to 115p after it accompanied a slump in first-half profits with a warning about second-half trading.

Water stocks, recently hit by fears about compensation to customers with interrupted supply, rallied, though the impact of burst pipes after the freeze hit many of the insurers. The insurance sector, recently buoyed by bid speculation, was depressed as estimates emerged that the sector is facing a £500 million bill for damage caused by the burst pipes in the North and Scotland. Commercial Union lost 12p to 610p, General Accident 13p to 646p, Royal Insurance 3p to 385p, GRG 1p to 267p and Sun Alliance 1p to 369p.

Bid speculation helped to fuel rises for many in the life assurance sector. Refuge gained 1p to 485p, Britannia 1p to 813p and London and Manchester, squeezed higher by speculative talk that the Halifax Building Society or Liverpool Victoria may bid, added 8p to 428p.

Elsewhere, bid speculation helped Vaux Group to climb 8p to 278p, with Bass, up 4p at 729, still seen as the favourite to launch a bid for the Sunderland-based brewing to Swallow Hotels and nursing homes group.

□ GILT-EDGED: A brighter outlook for interest rates and inflation helped gilts to shake off some of the recent political uncertainties. Sentiment was also boosted by an unchanged German repo rate and firmer US Treasuries.

The March long gilt future rose 22 ticks to £101.2732, on volume of 6,000 contracts. The rise prompted the Government to sell a bit more of the index-linked tap. Among conventional stocks, shorter-dated issues added 1½%, while gains among longer-dated stocks stretched to 1¾% and index-linked climbed 1¾%.

□ NEW YORK: The Dow Jones industrial average remained firm at midday, gaining 15.4 points to 5,209.61, helped by hopes of a US budget agreement. Declining issues led advances six to five.

## MAJOR INDICES

	New York (midday)
Dow Jones	3,209.61 (+15.54)
S&P Composite	521.44 (+0.12)
Tokyo:	
Nikkei Average	20618.00 (+749.85)
Hong Kong:	
Hang Seng	10573.90 (+176.64)
Auckland:	
FEI Index	501.10 (+0.69)
Sydney:	
ASX	2250.42 (+0.31)
Frankfurt:	
DAX	2342.32 (+4.93)
Singapore:	
Straits	3265.14 (+58.95)
Brussels:	
Generali	8222.48 (+63.03)
Paris:	
CAC-40	1931.21 (+11.75)
Zurich:	
Swisscom	735.50 (+7.90)
London:	
FT-SE	1774.13 (-0.25)
FT 100	3714.11 (+1.5)
FT-SE Mid 250	4071.4 (+17.5)
FT-SE Small 250	1841.0 (+1.2)
FT-SE Eurozone 100	1571.25 (+1.5)
FT All-Share	1817.55 (+1.59)
FT Non Financials	1918.84 (+2.03)
FT Fixed Interest	114.18 (+0.10)
FT Govt Bonds	95.64 (+0.26)
FT Bonds	100.00 (+0.00)
FT Euro Volume	755.2m
USM (Dataram)	188.46 (+0.20)
USSE	1,592.94 (+0.0019)
German Mark	2,255.6 (+0.0217)
Exchange Index	94.0 (+0.04)
Bank of England official close (pence)	1,190.93 (+0.0003)
ESX	1,191.93 (+0.0003)
CSDR	1,046.00 (+0.0003)
RPT	149.8 Nov (3,116) Jan 1997-100
RPD	149.8 Nov (2,956) Jan 1997-100

London:

FT-SE 100 1774.13 (-0.25)

FT 100 3714.11 (+1.5)

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THE

TIMES

CITY  
DIARYCould this  
be for YOU?

**I**F YOU'RE determined it's going to be YOU who is going to win tomorrow's National Lottery jackpot; then a new savings account from the Newcastle Building Society, offering an interest rate of 6.9 per cent, could appeal.

Direct 50 clearly is designed for YOU — the seriously rich. To open the postal account requires a minimum deposit of £100,000 and 50 days' notice is needed to make a withdrawal, so that should curb the temptation to spend, spend, spend.

## Gracious loser

**A**LGY CLUFF yesterday proved just what an officer and a gentleman he is. The takeover of his Cluff Resources mining group was declared unconditional in the morning by bidder Ashanti Goldfields, and by noon Cluff had penned a letter to Ashanti chief executive Sam Jonah to congratulate him. Algy will be under contract to Cluff's new owners for at least a year. However if, in time, Algy spawns Cluff Two and starts all over again, I, for one, would not be surprised.

## Lloyd's or Lloyds

**I**T SEEMS that both Lloyd's of London and the clearing banks need to give some lessons to the Labour Party. In discussing the Education (Student Loans) Bill, Maria Fye, Labour MP for Glasgow, Maryhill, asked the committee chairman if three Conservative MPs, apparently members of Lloyd's, should declare an interest "because their bank may possibly be involved". Nicholas Baker, MP for North Dorset, put Mrs Fye right. "The hon lady talks about her ignorance. I assure her that Lloyd's the underwriters are not the same as Lloyds Bank."



## Gilt warning

**I**MRO, as part of its brief to ensure investors are fully aware of what they are investing in, yesterday issued a new set of disclosure requirements governing unit trusts and the like. Paragraph 34 of the document starkly illustrates how times have changed. This requires that specific mention be made if more than 35 per cent of the portfolio consists, or is likely to consist, of gilt. The new Imro regulation is detailed under the heading "Risk Warnings".

## Bigger splash

**Y**OU won't find Thames Water chief out there with a bucket and mop in hand helping to end the misery of burst water pipes. Instead, they are getting on with their business — in England and in India. Thames came through the summer without any water restrictions, and if there are any current weather problems then they are modest. That leaves Thames time to lend a hand to India where water problems can be a health problem. Thames told the Westminster Review: "We have already started work in Bombay on a project which should double the supply of water there, and we are hopeful of winning a lot more contracts."

COLIN CAMPBELL

	Set	Buy	+/- %	Yd		Set	Buy	+/- %	Yd		Set	Buy	+/- %	Yd		Set	Buy	+/- %	Yd						
ABU UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD	01202 563 231					CAVENHUE UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD	0171 805 070				FRAMPTON UNIT MGMT LTD	0171 330 6500				EASTMAN UNIT TRUST LTD	0171 222 2222				UNIT TRUST LTD	0171 222 2222			
Balanced Fund	200.10	11.91	+ 0.7%	1.15		Capital Portfolio	61.35	101.71	+ 0.2%	2.5	Capital Portfolio	61.35	101.71	+ 0.2%	2.5	Capital Portfolio	61.35	101.71	+ 0.2%	2.5	Capital Portfolio	61.35	101.71	+ 0.2%	2.5
Blackrod Acc	200.10	11.91	+ 0.7%	1.15		European Portfolio	111.05	120.51	+ 0.6%	0.93	European Portfolio	111.05	120.51	+ 0.6%	0.93	European Portfolio	111.05	120.51	+ 0.6%	0.93	European Portfolio	111.05	120.51	+ 0.6%	0.93
Central Fund	248.40	263.03	- 0.0%	1.15		High Income	125.05	125.70	- 0.7%	0.45	High Income	125.05	125.70	- 0.7%	0.45	High Income	125.05	125.70	- 0.7%	0.45	High Income	125.05	125.70	- 0.7%	0.45
General Equit	248.40	263.03	- 0.0%	1.15		Pacific Portfolio	71.23	75.72	+ 1.1%	1.45	Pacific Portfolio	71.23	75.72	+ 1.1%	1.45	Pacific Portfolio	71.23	75.72	+ 1.1%	1.45	Pacific Portfolio	71.23	75.72	+ 1.1%	1.45
Global Fund	248.40	263.03	- 0.0%	1.15		Pacific Portfolio	133.93	144.91	+ 1.2%	1.45	Pacific Portfolio	133.93	144.91	+ 1.2%	1.45	Pacific Portfolio	133.93	144.91	+ 1.2%	1.45	Pacific Portfolio	133.93	144.91	+ 1.2%	1.45
Global Fund	182.10	190.70	+ 0.8%	0.95		Pacific Portfolio	57.22	58.49	+ 0.2%	0.54	Pacific Portfolio	57.22	58.49	+ 0.2%	0.54	Pacific Portfolio	57.22	58.49	+ 0.2%	0.54	Pacific Portfolio	57.22	58.49	+ 0.2%	0.54
APPA EQUITY & LAW UNIT TST MGRS	01202 563 231					CENTRE FOR THE FUND OF CHURCH OF ENGL	0171 500 1975				FRAMPTON UNIT MGMT LTD	0171 330 6500	Demand	1722 511			JAMES GROWTH UNIT TRUST LTD	0171 222 2222							
Central Fund	600.10	600.45	+ 1.2%	1.54		The Fund	717.99	735.58	+ 1.9%	1.55	The Fund	717.99	735.58	+ 1.9%	1.55	The Fund	717.99	735.58	+ 1.9%	1.55	The Fund	717.99	735.58	+ 1.9%	1.55
Central Fund	511.20	575.95	+ 1.0%	2.54							East 0171 330 6500	0171 330 6500			Special City	126.00	124.10	+ 0.2%	1.57	Special City	126.00	124.10	+ 0.2%	1.57	
Central Fund	511.20	575.95	+ 1.0%	2.54						Acc 0171 330 6500	0171 330 6500			Special City	126.00	124.10	+ 0.2%	1.57	Special City	126.00	124.10	+ 0.2%	1.57		
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Central Fund	511.20	575.95	+ 1.0%	2.54					Acc 0171 330 6500	0171 330 6500			Special City	126.00	124.10	+ 0.2%	1.57								

## Shares pause for breath

**TRADING PERIOD:** Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.



## ■ FILM 1

Showgirls may trade on its sexual content, but eroticism is a whole different game



## ■ FILM 2

Crash course in Latin: the National Film Theatre presents a season of Mexican cinema



## ■ MUSIC

At the Wigmore Hall the Lindsay Quartet are in superb form to launch their Beethoven cycle



## ■ TOMORROW

George Burns, with quip and cigar ever present, prepares to celebrate his 100th birthday

# Carnal or merely banal?

As Hollywood's latest exploitation film opens in Britain, Nicola Venning doubts the appeal of cinematic sex without a story

**S**ex fascinates. Sex sells. That is why it will always be a stock ingredient of movies, especially bad movies, where a gratuitous display of flesh may be used as a diversionary tactic to draw attention away from deficiencies in other departments.

During the past decade, however, many observers believe that celluloid sex has become too violent, too explicit, too perverse. And a film released in Britain next week seems to confirm the worst fears of the puritans. *Showgirls*, directed by Paul Verhoeven, combines a dollop of tacky sexual content with true Hollywood cynicism. It is an all-singing, all-dancing, all-nude (more or less) blockbuster, set in the clubs and casinos of Las Vegas, and concerning the naked ambition (as it were) of a dancer.

Its infamy has, of course, preceded it, just as its makers hoped. This week *Showgirls* was banned by the Irish film censor, who objected to the morality of the film and its explicit scenes. Abbey Films, which is releasing the film in Ireland, is appealing against the decision. In Britain, the film carries an 18 certificate after minor cuts; elsewhere in Europe it is being released uncut.

With *Showgirls*, Verhoeven takes a familiar *Star Is Born* formula and crudely subverts it by focusing on the sordid life of a young stripper and "lap-dancer". The film is, then, the perfect excuse to reveal acres of female flesh. But is there anything new here? Nudity is part of the Hollywood commercial tradition, and has been exploited since men first made moving pictures. Sex is the one element that defies poor reviews

• It is the French who excel at portraying sexuality •

the director who gave us *Basic Instinct* (1992) — the feeling is that he has stumbled badly with this one. *Showgirls* lacks major stars, whereas *Basic Instinct* featured Douglas and Sharon Stone, who famously uncrossed her knickerless limbs and earned herself a small footnote in cinematic history. But, more importantly, *Basic Instinct's* explicit sexual content was contained within a pacy thriller. Lose the story among the sex (as *Showgirls* seems to have done) and everything falls apart.

Perhaps *Showgirls* will only prove the old adage: when it comes to erotic titillation, less is very definitely more. Some of the sexiest film scenes ever made have actually shown precious little flesh: think of the sexual charge when Madeline Carroll removed her wet stockings while handcuffed to Robert Donat in Hitchcock's *The Thirty-Nine Steps*.

It is the French who excel at portraying sexuality — erotically,

subtly, though, is not modern Hollywood's forte. It is hard to think of many recent American movies that are erotic in a restrained manner. Perhaps romantic comedies come closest: the fully clothed Meg Ryan taking an orgasm in the restaurant scene in *When Harry Met Sally* was, for many men, quite a turn-on.

On the whole, eroticism is probably done best by the Europeans, although some of their sexiest efforts never leave the arthouse. Peter Greenaway's *The Cook, the Thief, His Wife and Her Lover*, for instance, was a sexy film by any standards. The sensual Helen Mirren embarks on an affair with Alan Howard under the nose of her boorish husband, Michael Gambon. Suspense, danger, lust: a potent combination.

It is the French, however, who excel at portraying sexuality — erotically,

comically, romantically. Classics such as Buñuel's *Belle de Jour* (1967)

with Catherine Deneuve as the demure whoring housewife, or Eric Rohmer's delightful study of sexual politics, *Pauline at the Beach* (1982) and the more recent *Hairdresser's Husband* (Patrice Leconte, 1990), a divinely erotic film about a scanty hairdresser's obsession for Arab music and salon sex (usually while cutting someone's hair), are all a part of a uniquely Gallic approach that is both disarmingly frank and erotically compelling.

Following this tradition is the recent French arthouse success, *Gazon Maudit*, which opens here on March 1. This small-budget French sex comedy stars the kooky Victoria Abril (of Almodóvar's *Tie Me Up, Tie Me Down*) in a story that touches on regions of bisexuality unexplored

even by regulars of *Brookside*.

The film was written and directed by the gay comedian Josiane Balasko and has been a huge hit in France.

Loli (Abral), disenchanted with her philandering husband, finds herself embarking on an affair with a woman — Balasko's itinerant traveler, Marijo. As she glides from a heterosexual to a homosexual relationship, the comic ramifications multiply. Desire runs through the film like an electric current, but there is no graphic sex. The film is endlessly entertaining — and with little more revealed than a passing buttock or two. There are surely lessons here for the makers of *Showgirls*. "Don't show, girls" might be a better motto for those trying to create great celluloid sex.

• *Showgirls* will be reviewed next Thursday, and is released on Friday

The naked and the dead duck: Paul Verhoeven's *Showgirls* has attracted masses of free publicity but has been a conspicuous flop at the American box-office

## Salute for Mexican wave

The centenary of film south of the border is to be marked by a two-month NFT festival



A scene from Fernando de Fuentes's groundbreaking *Let's Go With Pancho Villa!*

Financially this film was a disaster. It took de Fuentes' next picture, *Over on the Big Ranch* (1936), to initiate a burgeoning of Mexican cinema. This brazenly reactionary portrayal of rural life, where benevolent ranchers and chaste heroines dance and sing their way through a series of jolly huicac fiestas, is described as the film which "launched a thousand singing cowboy movies".

*Doña Barbara* (1943), another de Fuentes classic to be screened in the season, introduces the first Mexican screen idol, María Félix, "the devourer of men". Other Latin stars rise in her wake — actors like the elastic-limbed comedian Cantinflas, the Aztec answer to Chaplin, or Dolores Del Río, catapulted to fame in her role as the forlorn ingenue forced into prostitution in

opponents. Three of his works are to be shown: *The Young and the Damned* (1950), *El Nazarí* (1952) and *Nazaria* (1958), all craftily subverting previously established Mexican genres and stars.

The new cinematic possibili-

ties which he revealed are explored next month, when the festival gets more up-to-date, screening the works of the leading Mexican directors of the 1970s and 1980s.

Paul Leduc's *Frida* (1984)

relies on images rather than

words for its emotional portrait of Frida Kahlo, wife of the painter Diego Rivera and lover of Leon Trotsky, while Felipe Cazals's *Solitary* (1975) — an adaptation of José Revueltas's novel about the life of prisoners — is so powerful in its atmospheric evocation of oppression and brutality that the prison in which it was set (and in which Revueltas was himself incarcerated) was itself a sell-out.

Directors like these set the stage for prizewinning contemporary cineastes who have established Mexican film on the international map. The Mexican cinema season closes with screenings of films such as María Novara's *Danzón* (1991) — a bittersweet musical fable that explores the follies of romantic delusion in a Mexico City telephone operator — and *Chronos* (1993), a stylish original vampire movie which has made its director, Guillermo del Toro, one of the most sought-after new names in Hollywood. New films like

these pay tribute to the energy and diversity of one of Mexico's most representative cultural treasures.

RACHEL CAMPBELL-JOHNSTON

• The Mexican Cinema Season is at the NFT (0171-928 3353) from Tues to Feb 18. Highlights of the season will subsequently be shown in the British Film Institute's regional film theatres

Op 132 Quartet No 15 in A minor began to harmonise their spirits and earth their energies. From an uneasy beginning, the players began to find their own rhythm as well as that of the music as note values were broken down and melody rose out of fragile part-writing.

Not for nothing was Beethoven's slow movement written in *der Lydischen Tonart*: the great hymn of thanksgiving after his illness is played out in a mode whose solace and joy seemed to permeate the breathing and phrasing of the Lindsay's. After a wonderfully fearless recitative from Peter Cropper's leading violin, the finely paced finale had all the momentum of total command.

As the Adagio made its slow harmonic progress in a fine

music



## ■ POP 1

Forget Britpop: the big earning power for Brits in America still resides with George Michael



## ■ POP 2

With Micheál Ó Súilleabháin at the helm, traditional Irish music is steered towards the charts



## ■ POP 3

... while the rap veteran LL Cool J adds a little romance to his rhymes on Mr Smith



## ■ POP 4

Two years on from Cobain's suicide, the myth of 'cool' continues to wreck lives

George Michael is returning, to refresh the parts Britpop didn't quite reach. Alan Jackson reports

## Have faith, the cat in the cap is back on song

**O**n Monday George Michael will release what is not only his first single in more than three years, but also the first since he claimed in a court of law that his situation under contract to his former paymasters Sony Music was akin to slavery. The record, *Jesus to a Child*, is mellifluous, restrained, carefully crafted, important-sounding, regal in tone and really rather lovely. That is a lot of adjectives for any one song to bear, which may explain why it stretches to just under seven minutes. Radio programmers must be grateful that the author's enchantment was artistic rather than physical, or they might now be wrestling to fit a latter-day equivalent of *Fidelio* into their schedules.

Meanwhile, it is hardly reckless to predict that it will enter the British charts at No 1. And the self-consciously grown-up feel to this debut recording for his new UK label Virgin would seem to confirm 32-year-old Michael's musical direction as the sad-eyed torchbearer of quality pop. Like some masculine mirror image of the Princess of Wales (after all, they shared the same hairstyle throughout the early 1980s), he presents himself in the song as being betrayed by a lover's disappearance — or, possibly, death — yet still stout and willing to be of public service. Media reaction to the record — released to radio three weeks ahead of sale, it received more than 180 plays during the first 24 hours — suggests an enthusiasm to buy into the image. In 1996, he will be king of our hearts.

Which hardly represents a victory for the much-trumpeted phenomenon of Britpop, or the carefully fanned flames of last autumn's Damon Albarn vs the Gallagher brothers feud. Shouldn't our high street heroes be young and dangerous, equipped either with mocking grins and art school degrees (Blur) or Healey-esque eyebrows and Mancunian attitude (Oasis), not relative aristos with designer stubble

and a heavy heart? Possibly they should, but the relative weakness of the teenage market means that music which is safe, mainstream and of mass appeal is liable to win out over the new, the innovative and the daring. When Albarn and his girlfriend Justine Frischmann invite *Hello!* readers into their lovely home, Britain may find itself ready to crown him a family favourite.

At last summer's Reading Festival, Courtney Love drew

A look at the end-of-year Hot 100 singles listings in *Billboard*, the American retailer's bible, tells a similar story. After a relative famine for British acts, there are welcome signs of recovery. But with Everything But the Girl leading the charge, followed by the likes of Del Amitri and Elton John, it is no time to talk of revolution.

So too with album sales by British artists in America. Yes, a fresh-faced foursome from the North West of England has held steady at No 1 for three weeks now, but it is the Beatles with *Anthology 1*, not some representative of a genuine new wave. And you must dig deep to find the other UK acts to No 44 for Def Leppard (*Vault: Greatest Hits 1980-1995*) and to 53 for Seal with his eponymous LP, its sales enhanced by the inclusion of the single *Kiss From a Rose* on the soundtrack of *Batman Forever*.

Only the appearance of Oasis's *(What's the Story) Morning Glory?* at 79 — up 15 places after ten weeks of release — cheers, especially with domestic favourites like Queen (*Made in Heaven*) and Simply Red (*Life*) languishing at 151 and 170 respectively.

This gloomy picture should be changed emphatically by the release of Michael's comeback set, predicted for late March. But the fact that, where sales are concerned at any rate, he represents the Great White Hope of British pop in 1996 tells its own story. The cognoscenti may anticipate the return of the Manic Street Preachers, for example, the continued ascension of Radiohead and a growth in success for up-and-coming bands such as Dubstar, Ash and Fluffy, but it still takes a familiar name and sound to lure buyers in significant numbers.

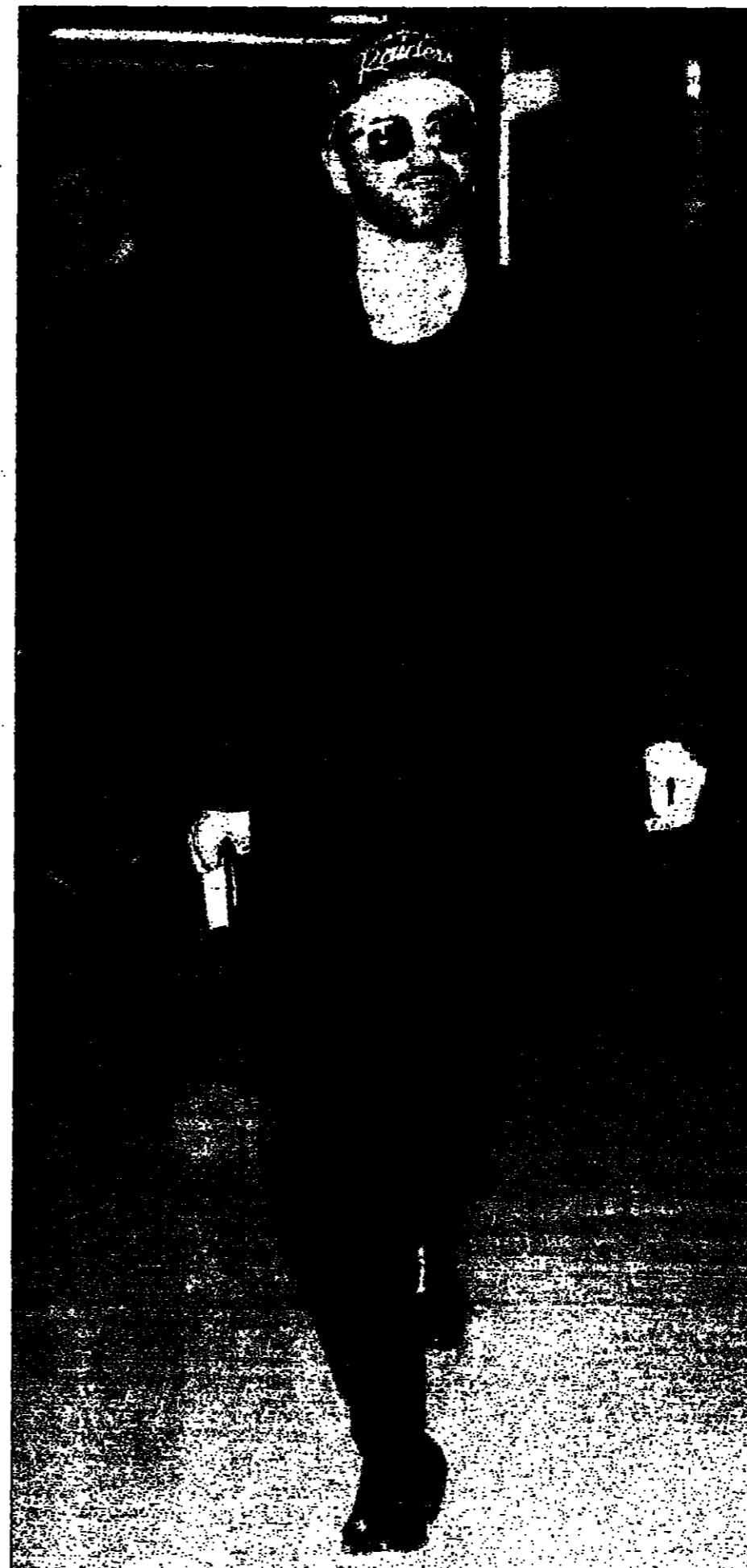
Which suggests that, come 2005, the local record industry could be looking, not to Oasis, but to Take That's Gary Barlow, by then doubtless a fabulously wealthy and be-stubbled solo star, to save its bacon.

In 1996,  
George  
will be king  
of our  
hearts

hoots of derision from the crowd with her lofty observation that the whole Britpop thing was not going to prove significant, particularly where American audiences were concerned. She may have been right, though. American college radio stations may love Blur and Oasis; the arch but increasingly youth-aware New Yorker magazine may have included *The Great Escape* and *(What's the Story) Morning Glory?* in its list of the 25 best releases of 1995, but neither band has ousted old dependables like Mariah Carey, Garth Brooks and Madonna from the upper regions of the American charts.

Oasis stand the best chance in the long run. Those chunky guitar chords, those echoes of the Beatles, must be more exportable than the geographically precise and more ironic musings of Blur or Pulp. But as the trade paper *Music Week* reveals in its review of 1995, our big overseas earners are still those acts marching resolutely up the middle of the road — Annie Lennox, Seal, Des'ree — and *Smash Hits* staples such as Take That, East 17 and Boyzone.

Which hardly represents a victory for the much-trumpeted phenomenon of Britpop, or the carefully fanned flames of last autumn's Damon Albarn vs the Gallagher brothers feud. Shouldn't our high street heroes be young and dangerous, equipped either with mocking grins and art school degrees (Blur) or Healey-esque eyebrows and Mancunian attitude (Oasis), not relative aristos with designer stubble



George Michael, the LA Raider — and the New York raider. Japan raider. Australia raider...

## Building in cyberspace

By Alan Jackson

### NEW ALBUMS: The future of Irish music; a rap romantic; tea-room folk

**MICHEÁL Ó SÚILLEABHÁIN AND VARIOUS ARTISTS**

*A River of Sound* (Virgin CDU 2776)

THANKS in part to the success of Bill Whelan's *Riverdance*, 1995 was the year when the international spotlight made one of its periodic swings in the general direction of Irish music.

But where *Riverdance* was a modern, populist adaptation (some would say an aberration) of Irish music, the unrelated *A River of Sound* (subtitled *The Changing Course of Irish Traditional Music*) offers a more thoughtful, if surprisingly open-ended, exploration of a musical tradition that runs right

through the ancient Celtic culture of Ireland.

Mastered by the musician, composer and academic Micheál Ó Súilleabháin, the album was recorded in 1994 as the soundtrack to the three-part television series of the same name, broadcast last week on BBC2. The object of the exercise, Ó Súilleabháin told *Billboard*, the American music-trade magazine, was to provide "a snapshot of Irish music where it is, where it has come from and where it possibly is going".

The picture that emerges is of a music steeped in its own distinctive heritage yet open to

fresh influences and still evolving. Merry jigs and reels are played on fiddles and accordions, while slower, haunting airs are traced on piano and uilleann pipes.

However, Ó Súilleabháin has infuriated folk purists in Ireland by his use of orchestral arrangements on several of the numbers and by his preference for young, virtuoso performers such as the fiddler Eileen Ivers, from New York, and the concertina player Niall Vallely.

The album is all the better for embracing such innovations and two of the best pieces are percussionist Mel Mer-

cier's *Pulse*, with its Javanese drums, Indian bells and thumping bodhran rhythms which sound almost African in provenance, and *The Real Blues Reel*, a striking harmonica duet by the New Zealander Brendan Power and Mick Kinsella, which deftly forges some unlikely links between Irish music and the blues.

**LL COOL J**  
*Mr Smith*  
(Def Jam/Island 529 724)

CURRENTLY lodged in the American Top Three with his single *Hey Lover* (released here on Monday), LL Cool J is that rarest of creatures, a rap

veteran. In a genre notorious for its rapid and ruthless turnover of acts and fashions, he has maintained a position close to the top of the pecking order since his first hits ten years ago.

His trick has been to leaven the braggadocio with something slightly more romantic (his 1987 hit *I Need Love* was the first bona fide rap love song) and *Mr Smith* is no exception. As well as *Hey Lover*, which is built on the bones of an old Michael Jackson song (*The Lady in My Life*), several passionate liaisons are documented in varying degrees of detail, from the comparatively innocuous *Loungin* to the graphic humping and heaving of *Doin It*.

These occasional displays of, erm, sensitivity are, however, kept firmly in check, and the tough-guy credentials are vigorously reaffirmed on more hoodlum-oriented material such as *Life As...* and *Get Da Drop On 'Em*. "Aint an MC alive that fought with me," he boasts on *I Shot Ya*, and while he may be more circumspect than some of his colleagues, LL's mellow period is still some way off.

**COMBUSTIBLE EDISON AND ESQUIVEL**  
*Four Rooms*  
(Elektra 759-6186)

THE film *Four Rooms*, co-

directed by Quentin Tarantino

and with a cast which includes

Tim Roth, Jennifer Beals and Madonna, has been universally panned by the critics. But

the soundtrack is still a lot of fun.

Written and performed for

the most part by Combustible

Edison, a chic, easy-listening jazz combo for the 1990s

signed to the left-field Sub-Pop label, the album embraces

elements of swing, supper-club and surf music, all flavoured with a fine sprinkling of cocktail-lounge cheese.

From the exotic, faintly Egyptian-sounding *Breakfast at Denny's* to the eccentric cha-cha-cha of *Eva Seduces Ted*, with its Hawaiian guitar and cabaret organ, the album proceeds in short, rapid bursts of instrumental colour, like a sequence of briefly incandescent fireworks.

**MARTIN SIMPSON**  
*Smoke & Mirrors*  
(Thunderbird TBES001; import)

A STUDENT of blues, folk and spiritual music, Martin Simpson has earned a measure of cult acclaim in America, despite making no attempt to conceal the influence of an English upbringing on his singing and acoustic guitar playing.

Without a drummer and opting for the cello playing of Hank Roberts where most comparable acts would hire a harmonica player, Simpson brings an educated ear and a clean, fast finger-picking technique to a mixture of his own compositions and standards such as *Spoonful* and *See That My Grave Is Kept Clean*.

The result is a collection of precise, austere performances which, despite teasing every ounce of melodic potential from these rootsy tunes, tend to sound rather strait-laced — somewhat like the way John Goodman or Ry Cooder might have sounded if they had begun their careers playing in the tea rooms of England instead of the coffee shops and bars of New York and Los Angeles.

Written and performed for

the most part by Combustible

Edison, a chic, easy-listening jazz combo for the 1990s

## It's better to fade away than burn out

Somehow, being cool has become a death trip. This year, let's get it back to what it was

**N**ow, with the new year, is the time for the whole notion of cool to be re-evaluated pretty damn sharpish. This year marks the first anniversary of the disappearance of the *Manic Street Preachers'* Richie Edwards, and the second anniversary of Kurt Cobain's death; and, with the jolly wave of Britpop pretty much over for the time being, 1996 is going to be a rather reflective, more melancholy year of mope-rock, drum'n'bass and trip-hop, rather than the tomfoolery and joyful escapism of Britpop. And, as long as "cool" still consists of sucking on whisky bottles, wearing out the knees of anorexia-thin Levis, stopping over the lids of toilets and forgetting what sleep and peace and a quiet night in never looked like, we will be silently observing more appearances and breakdowns before the year's out.

Cool was leather. But some time in the early Eighties — possibly around the suicide of Joy Davison's Ian Curtis — cool turned cold. It became a crippling dictum of alienation, self-loathing, self-glorification, encompassing a lifestyle of drinking, drug-taking and general misery that rendered any kind of cohesive thought well-nigh impossible. The only way to prove your worth, it seemed, was to self-destruct, to prove you "meant it" by taking your life.

This structure is apparent in both Cobain's suicide note and Edwards's last interview. These were men who had fallen for the myth of cool, and damaged and demeaned themselves living up to it when, underneath it all, they had their own guidelines and priorities for a genuinely cool lifestyle. Cobain revealed that he was ending it all because, on stage, he was not as rampant and joyful as "Fred Mercury"; and Edwards admitted the final straw had been the death of his dog, Snoopy. These were two young men who, at the end of the day, simply wanted to write *We Will Rock You* and then sit down to watch *Emmerdale* with their dog on their lap — but, having bought into the confining notion of old school cool, had to deny these urges until the last, death-silent moments.

Cool needs to be restructured entirely, by harking back to when it was a lifer, rather than a dictum. Cool was widely accepted as a *freedom* — to wear, drink and listen to what you wanted. Surely, the kind of "freedom" Fifities cool embodied would now be the freedom to live a happy, gentle fourscore years and enjoy the fruits of your genius.

This brings up the unfortunate truth that Roger Daltry, trout-farmer extraordinaire, is cooler than Cobain — a shocking realisation for any generation, but one that needs to be absorbed. Because there is no freedom in this restrictive, shiny black-leather coffin that still persists in clinging to its former glories.

### TOP TEN ALBUMS

1. *(What's the Story) Morning Glory?* ... Oasis (Creation)
2. *Robson & Jerome* ... Robson & Jerome (RCA)
3. *Different Class* ... Pulp (Island)
4. *History* ... Michael Jackson (Epic)
5. *Said and Done* ... Boyzone (Polydor)
6. *Something to Remember* ... Madonna (Maverick)
7. *Made in Heaven* ... Queen (Parlophone)
8. *Power of a Woman* ... Eternal (EMI)
9. *The Great Escape* ... Blur (Food)
10. *Jollification* ... Lightning Seeds (Epic)

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# EDUCATION

## Parents must face the music

**Michael Barber** says parents should be compelled to meet teachers

The idea of a Learning Society, a society in which every citizen is an active learner throughout life, is rapidly gaining currency. It has been an ideal for years. Now it is perceived as a matter of economic survival.

This explains why companies such as BT and Thorn EMI are signing up to support Sir Christopher Ball's important Campaign for Learning. These awareness-raising activities will need to be followed up with changes in policy if Britain is serious about getting ahead of its international competitors.

The policy of the present is school improvement. Last summer Gillian Shephard launched her Improving Schools initiative. In December, Tony Blair and David Blunkett published their education programme, Excellence for Everyone, which offers the prospect of a comprehensive national strategy for the promotion of school improvement. Both the Government and the Opposition have also spelt out the corollary of this new trust in schools — that where schools fail there will be intervention in the interests of pupils.

This drive for school improvement is an essential phase in the creation of an

education service fit for the 21st century. Whether on its own, it will be sufficient is much less clear. Vigorous and constructive though it is likely to be, its limitations need to be acknowledged, too. One is that even in improving schools there are individual pupils who slip through the net of educational success.

Furthermore, the focus on school improvement casts the parent, the role of innocent bystander. Although some schools make tremendous efforts to involve parents, the emphasis of policy has been on parental rights rather than responsibilities.

Yet the research evidence consistently confirms common sense. The role of parents as co-educators of their children is fundamental, both in supporting the school and in providing additional learning opportunities elsewhere, such as museum visits or participation in educational activities outside school. But, above all, supportive parents give previous time to the encouragement of learning at home.

All this undoubtedly helps young people to achieve more, but it leaves a huge policy question wide open. If we truly want a Learning Society, we have to do something about children whose parents lack either the necessary will or the

means to support their education in this way.

Educators have attempted various strategies to encourage parents to become more involved in the education of their children. Schools have worked hard with mixed success at attracting parents to parents' evenings. Some have tried voluntary home-school contracts. These have been beneficial but have not done enough to bring home to parents just how important their responsibilities are. The overwhelming emphasis on rights for parents, while broadly positive, has, by implication, diminished the importance of meeting their responsibilities.

If we are serious about the

creation of a Learning Society, this will have to change. Parents should be given a statutory duty, not only to see that their child attends school, as at present, but also to attend meetings with their child's teacher at least once every six months. At the meeting the parent and teacher should set targets for that child's learning over the next six months and decide the scope of their responsibilities.

This would have a number of advantages. Parents would be clear about how they could contribute. They would also be clear about what they could expect from the school. Meanwhile, schools would benefit from the support they deserve but often do not get at present.

Above all, it would reduce the chances of any individual child slipping through the net.

To make this work a means would need to be found of making available resources to support learning out of school in disadvantaged areas. This could be done in two ways.

First, after-school study support centres, where young people could do their homework and have access to information technology and to supportive adults, should be established in every disadvantaged location in the country. There is plenty of experience to build on, much of it supported by the Prince's Trust. It works, and the cost of providing a national network of centres would be less than 0.5 per cent

of current national expenditure on schools.

Secondly, the possibility of providing vouchers to parents on low incomes for the purchase of educational resources for the home should be considered. It would be a condition of the voucher that it could be spent only on resources agreed at the statutory meetings between parent and teacher.

This sounds expensive, but vouchers worth £200 per year for the parents of the poorest four million children could be paid for, with change to spare, by taxing child benefit. The vouchers could be spent on time at a study support centre or, for example, on providing software or books.

It would be a clear policy signal that in a Learning Society the opportunity to learn is as basic and important as food, warmth and shelter.

A parent attends a school meeting, as seen by Rockwell. But should it be compulsory?



## Do as I say, but not as I do?

**Susan Elkin** on the need for teachers to set an example

Before Christmas, I visited a split-site school in which the two buildings lie less than conveniently, on opposite sides of a busy main road. Of course, there is a footbridge and strict rules about pupil use of it. So how on earth can the teachers in that school justify their own dangerous weaving and dashing across the road through the traffic?

I was there less than two hours and saw several instances of this "do as I say, but not as I do" behaviour. The divisive and automatic assumption that it's fine to have two sets of rules in a school is so ingrained in many teachers that they never stop to think it might have something to do with problematic pupil behaviour in the classroom.

Elsewhere I have seen one-way traffic rules on staircases strictly enforced for everyone except staff. I taught in one school where senior staff were extremely tough about girl students wearing boots in the winter — and equally firm about bare legs in the summer. Both rules were ignored by the female teachers.

Then there are the teachers who shout — often abusively — at their pupils. They are usually among the first to complain about vicious pupil aggression. And it is often the same people who expect pupils to run errands for them who do not bother to say please and thank you. Surely behaviour is catching and it's no good these people complaining that pupil courtesy is a thing of the past.

Not having to follow the same rules is a symbolic demonstration of staff superiority. Pupils are merely

underlings. We live today, however, in a very egalitarian climate, which schools reflect. Children are taught that their human rights transcend age, class and race — and rightly so. But for those teachers who pay mere lip-service to equality, pupil rebellion will ensue.

Teachers who have the fewest incidents of unacceptable behaviour among the pupils they teach are those who role-model a high standard of commitment, concern, conformity and courtesy.

The mixed message emitted by a teacher who believes "How dare you raise your voice at me?" at some hapless miscreant, or by one who fights through the stairs but sends back a child doing the same thing, is dangerous.

As far as possible, schools should have agreed rules which everyone abides by. The agreement part is vital, too. If pupils and staff discuss these things together the consensus is almost always, in my experience, a commendable commonsense solution. If, for example, a community decides — for reasons of safety and to prevent mess and litter — that no drinks should be carried round the building but that consumption should be confined to designated places, then that should apply to staff.

If teachers and pupils are to work successfully together there needs to be a high level of mutual respect. To give pupils less than a strong positive example prevents that mutual respect developing and can only perpetuate discipline difficulties in schools.

### EDUCATION

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White ball misbehaves at the green-baize charity party

## Performing for pocket money

**S**nooker is not a game with which I have had a meaningful relationship. I own neither a waistcoat nor a snooker stick and though, over the years, I have played a number of games — and got a blue at Oxford, sadly missed the ensuing pink — I have yet to put together a break.

When I received this letter asking me to play in a pro-am charity game in Birmingham and read the sentence: "Don't worry if your snooker skills are a little rusty", I accepted. I chose Stephen Hendry as my



FREUD  
ON FRIDAY

partner; the money we were to raise was for an excellent cause and the sponsor the charitably-minded Liverpool Victoria — a company that set out in 1843 with the object of affording the poorer classes of society with a means to provide a decent interment at the trifling expense of a halfpenny a week (more if you were older). Last year, the company was "repositioned" as Liverpool Victoria. The Friendly Society with assets in excess of those of Stephen Hendry:

The International Conference Centre, Birmingham. Where we performed, is a construction of splendour with many helpful folk bearing badges inscribed Event Management, guiding guests to the hospitality-room, where comfortable waitresses trod the carpets thrusting skewers of bacon-wrapped sausage and chicken tikka at the throng. In the corner opposite the bar was the snooker table, where those whose skills were dulled by brilliance at other pastimes could practise: Mr Gary Mason, a jovial heavyweight boxer; Mr Nicholas Parsons, a



Hendry, potting for a worthy cause, is watched by his partner, borrowed cue at the ready. Photograph: Marc Aspland

comedian of different avoritudes and Dr Hilary Jones, a medical communicator, joined me in a game which differed from that showing on the television monitor in that the number of balls on our table remained constant. Probably luck: mine is out. At the South China Golf Club last month I lost two balls in the ball-wash and on Christmas Day the pudding was stamped "best before December 24".

At the end of each first-round match in the £300,000 Liverpool Victoria Charity Challenge it is amateur time. An engaging woman, who later in the evening asked whether I had really not known that it was she who presented the weather on GMTV, introduced the pros-

and the ams and they spun a wheel to determine the length of the game of Potting for Pounds: Willie Thorne and Nicholas Parsons had two and a quarter minutes; taking alternate shots, they had a score of 23 and spun another wheel to give the quotient by which to multiply the points:

so MIND benefited by £2,070.

I was due to partner the world champion after his tie with John Higgins; the game was for the greater prosperity of the Cystic Fibrosis Trust, tee-off at 9pm.

As snooker is an unpredictable game, the Hendry-Higgins match lasted three hours so it was at 11.15pm that I received my introduction, fol-

lowed by a lukewarm round of applause punctuated by the sounds of many spectators trying to leave.

The difference between snooker as played with friends and the professional game is equipment.

Pros have their own, carry it around in embossed leather cases. I came as I was and when the referee made "he's off" noises I announced cuelessness, then realising that attack is ever the best form of defence. I ordered the man with the white gloves to clean the balls — all of them. My cue arrived. I cancelled my request.

Bad golfers, when faced with significant putting, get the yips. I am pleased to say that under the stress of competition

and the lights and the cameras, my hands on the borrowed snooker bat remained steady.

It was my luck that was out and while it had been my intention to hit quick, short,

slow shots to enable the world champion to pocket the colours and take the glory, that game-plan misfired. In the short time at our disposal it was I who found the pocket... twice, sank the white cue ball each time.

A temporary setback for the amateurs, but it should be remembered that it was our lot

who built the Ark; professionals built the *Titanic*.

I shall hang up my waistcoat but will try to get up early and watch GMTV's weather report.

## Batsmen lacking in skills

From Mr Bruce Cowles

Sir, To cricket lovers the game has many unique qualities, but yet another is emerging.

There can surely be no other game in which those who represent this country in international contests display such a lack of the basic requirements of their craft. I refer to our batsmen.

In a Test match, with all the time in the world to build an innings, and facing the world's best bowling, the prime requirement must be survival. Yet, we see one batsman after another succumbing to catches, mostly to the wicketkeeper or slips with shots that from a defensive point of view never have been played and from a run-scoring point of view (to which one can add some hook shots) are to say the least highly ill-judged.

If one were to film the efforts of our first six Test batsmen throughout a match it would show that in 30 per cent of their shots the feet are in the wrong position. In a few classic instances, they have not moved an inch from the commencement of the bowler's run-up. Brian Lara's foot-work is to them as Nureyev is to Harry Champion. Alas to this a general inability to play down the line of the ball and

the malaise is there for all to see.

Why is this? The one-day game no doubt contributes much and possibly the MCC plan of producing coaches en masse some three decades ago had some effect.

Our mature commentators — the likes of Fred Truman, Geoff Boycott, Trevor Bailey and Raymond Illingworth — make reference at times, but rarely say with force what must surely be in their minds.

It is not fair for the last

mentioned to assume responsibility for England's displays when he just does not have the material.

The depressing thing is that the younger players who are emerging in the early batting order display the same failings. Our Test batsmen provide examples for today's youngsters. Where are our coaches?

The ability of batsmanship, to counter anything that a bowler can produce on any pitch, is a wonderful art, but performers are a very endangered species indeed, if not already extinct.

Yours faithfully,  
BRUCE COWLES,  
The Coach House,  
New Barn Lane,  
Ockley,  
Surrey.

## Clubs must have role

From Mr Noel K. Armstead

Sir, The Rugby Football Union (RFU) Commission report, "Open rugby — the right to decide", has yet to be approved. The RFU under pressure from the counties association to defer final decisions for a further 12 months. If this suggestion is adopted, the game will be truly split and far from "seamless", which is the RFU's declared aim. The first and second division clubs will declare independence as there are sponsors waiting in the wings.

If the RFU is to remain truly the governing body of the whole game, then the administration needs to be further revised, reflecting the playing strengths of the game. The RFU council needs to be staffed with representatives from the league structure throughout, for this is now where the game is played. The first and second division clubs have already made this clear by resigning from the National Clubs Association, which they believe does not represent them properly.

Such a radical proposal will not be welcomed by the RFU at this stage, as it is walking a tightrope in an effort to try to keep everybody moderately happy. Compromise is the most ineffective solution when there are entrepreneurs outside the ring, ready to pay the piper and call the tune.

The RFU must be brave, acknowledge the new order and drag the administration, albeit screaming, into the 21st century.

Tell the counties that they still have a very important function to fulfil by administering rugby at all levels up to the age of 20, organising coaching and selection and, most of all, liaising with schools and colleges to ensure that the game reaches as many youngsters as possible. The Government has a declared policy to encourage the development of sport in schools through connections with clubs and the counties would be able to administer this effectively.

Yours faithfully,  
NOEL K. ARMSTEAD,  
8 Chiswick Lodge,  
Liston Road,  
Marlow, Buckinghamshire.

## Glasgow rift

From Mr Terence Wynn

Sir, I agree with much of the article written by Kevin McCarron ("Legacy of Ibrox lost amid intolerance of divided loyalties", January 1) concerning the sectarian rift which continues to divide the supporters of Rangers and Celtic in Glasgow. However, I note that he did not advance any solutions himself, presumably because there is no solution.

Those of us old enough to remember the disaster at Ibrox Stadium on January 2, 1971, are able to experience again the shock and horror which shook the nation as well as Glasgow.

McCarron might have mentioned the memorial mass in St Andrew's Roman Catholic Cathedral in the city, which was attended by the Rangers team and the directors when

Archbishop Scanlon publicly embraced the Rangers chairman as a sign of reconciliation and sympathy.

Efforts to unite the supporters, however, are likely to be no more successful than the pitiful attempt to pay respect to the young Celtic supporter killed when he passed a Rangers area.

The uniting of the scarves bearing the colours of both clubs, which had been left as a memorial, and the dumping of the flowers in a waste bin said more than any words can convey.

Yours sincerely,  
TERENCE WYNN,  
Boscombe Villa,  
30 Queen's Road,  
South Benfleet, Essex.

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Further details and application forms should be obtained from Mr M G E Paulson-Ellis, Registrar and Secretary, University of East Anglia, Norwich NR4 7TJ, (telephone 01603 593648), closing date Friday 19 January 1996. Please quote references AC88 (International Relations) and AC87 (Politics).

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The Sunday Times - 28th January 1996

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# Ratings flawed by inconsistencies

By RICHARD EVANS, RACING JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR

A WIDE-RANGING review of how the best horses in Europe and North America are assessed at the end of each season is to be carried out this year after controversy surrounded the publication yesterday of the International Classification for the 1995 Flat season.

Lammtarra was rated the joint-lowest winner of the Derby by since the classifications began 19 years ago and, to add insult to injury, the unbeaten winner of the Derby, the King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Diamond Stakes and the Prix d'Arc de Triomphe was also deemed to be the joint-lowest-rated three-year-old since records began.

However, the biggest disagreement was provoked by the rating attributed to Bahri, the John Dunlop-trained winner of the St James's Palace Stakes, and more significantly, the Queen Elizabeth II Stakes at Ascot.

Although his six-length success, on softish going, in the mile event was widely attributed to the prowess of Willie Carson, who successfully found faster ground around the outside of the course, the panel of handicappers raised Bahri from a previous best rating of 125 to 129.

The final rating, based on a race which few professionals believed was a trustworthy guide, meant Bahri ended up as champion miler – well ahead of Pennenkamp (125) and Celtic Swing (124), who beat him in the 2,000 Guineas, and Ridgewood Pearl (126), who won group one mile races in four different countries.

To underline the inconsistent approach adopted by the

handicappers, they were pre-

pared to elevate Bahri on the basis of one dubious piece of form and yet applied contrasting criteria when dealing with Lake Coniston. He achieved a rating of 130 for his outstanding July Cup win, but was subsequently relegated to 127 after failing to repeat the form.

Goeffre Gibbs, the senior British Horseracing Board handicapper who is taking over as chairman of the International Classification Committee, is well aware of the problems and is preparing a paper outlining proposed changes which will be submitted.

RICHARD EVANS

Name: DENVER BAY  
(3-20 Tewkesbury)  
Next best: Beauchamp Grace  
(2-20 Tewkesbury)

led to the European Pattern Committee.

There are guidelines in existence now which have not been published, but a lot of them are contradictory and that is part of the problem. The guidelines clearly state a horse should be judged on his overall performance but, in the case of a one-off performance, if he doesn't disprove it afterwards, it must be accepted. Where does that leave us?" Gibbs asked. "We want to iron out the perceived inconsistencies in our work."

If my contention is wrong, then the very best three-year-olds and upwards on both sides of the Atlantic have been a sub-standard bunch for each of the last three years.

Interestingly, American horses are not included in the two-year-old classification, which confirm the 1995 crop to have been above average with the unbeaten Alhaarth leading the way on 126, while Blue Duster (119) was the top filly – six abreast of Bosra Sham, the ante-post favourite for the 1,000 Guineas.

Gibbs said: "Everything

asked of Alhaarth has been answered most comprehensively."

Gibbs explained: "So many of the best horses are in the same ownership or yards. We have also seen the dispersal of thoroughbreds to North America and Australia which would have otherwise run in this country. Last year, for example, 25 of the top 40 turf horses in the United States were ex-European.

"It is critical you have enough top-year-olds for the three-year-olds to be measured against and that is what has been lacking."

Horses can only be rated according to what they have beaten and Gibbs's reasoning helps to explain why Lammtarra was given a rating of only 130 – the same as Zafonic and Balanchine, in 1993 and 1994 respectively.

Although Gibbs and his colleagues vehemently deny it, I believe the influence of North American handicappers, who tend not to rate their horses so highly, has contributed to the lower assessment of three-year-olds.

With American horses included in the full classification list for the first time this year – Thunder Gulch and Serena's Song are top rated on 128 – it is difficult for European horses to be rated significantly higher. To underline the point, the mighty Cigar, the unbeaten Breeders' Cup Classic winner, was given a rating of only 132.

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# Lake's retirement ends career of massive potential

By DAVID MADDOCK

**T**HE sport of football rarely justifies its overblown hyperbole. Paul Lake announced news yesterday that, for once, deserved the pathos it inevitably generated. Lake, 27, has decided to end a painful struggle that has occupied him for the best part of six years, and retire from football. It is a sad loss to a game in need of the refreshing honesty that typified the Manchester City midfield player.

Lake had an immense talent that took him, even as a comparative novice, to the verge of the England team. A debilitating cruciate ligament injury cut him down just at the stage when he seemed likely to emerge as a player of genuine international pedigree.

The fateful moment came on September 27, 1990. Since then Lake has endured 15 operations and countless false dawns in a brave attempt to return to the game that, he tearfully admitted yesterday, he loves. As 1996 dawned, he finally gave up the unequal struggle against constant biting pain and ultimately impossible odds.

Howard Kendall, the manager of Manchester City at the time of the initial injury, received the news yesterday by saying that the international



Lake: 15 operations

## Venables stakes claim for his players' time

**T**ERRY VENABLES will launch England's preparations for the European championship finals by twice gathering his squad for training in the next six weeks. The England coach, without a match until Bulgaria play at Wembley on March 27, is in no mood to waste time with the finals a little more than five months away.

His first squad session will be held at England's regular headquarters at Bisham Abbey, near Marlow, with between 20 and 22 players likely to be asked to report on Monday evening, January 22. They will work together up

three and a half more years he fought a difficult personal struggle. Yesterday was the end of that fight.

Speaking in a quiet corner of Manchester City's training ground, where he has suffered manfully for so long in what has been a lonely struggle, Lake found it hard to hold back the tears. As a player he always had style and dignity; he maintained that yesterday, even during such a sad occasion.

"Firstly, I have a number of people to thank," he said. "I have been through about 15 operations and nearly 5½ years of enduring pain most days. Without the support of my wife, my family and my close friends, this would have been over a long time ago."

"I'd also like to thank all the staff at the club, and all the wonderful fans who have given me so much support. People might say I have been very unlucky, but to have played over 100 games for this great club has been a privilege." A composed player, Lake possesses a strength of spirit that saw him through years of struggle that would have defeated lesser men.

His last hope came in early 1993 when he visited an American specialist, Dom Sisto, to have a ligament transplant. Sisto has performed the same operation on many American football players, and boasted a 100 per cent success rate. Lake was to prove, sadly, his only failure.

Lake said: "The specialist in America was great, but he warned me that he couldn't guarantee anything because perhaps by that stage too much damage had been done. I trained over the Christmas period, and with the pain that I was getting it was logical to say enough is enough and it's time to get on with the rest of my life."

The former England Under-21 and 8 player hopes now to retrain in football as a physiotherapist. Manchester City will give him a testimonial match — those who saw his unfulfilled promise as a player will wish him well.

He expects to lose some candidates to Coca-Cola Cup replays that will be held that week.

The second get-together will switch to the Midlands and Aston Villa's training ground near The Belfry, a similar-sized squad assembling on Monday, February 12, again staying together until the Thursday.

## Jones warms to Goodison Park mission

David Maddock on the former Everton player who is looking forward to a dream day for Stockport County

**D**avid Jones has that look an interviewer dreads. Slightly ragged, bloodshot, weary eyes: it is the look of a man who has had enough... hours ago. We are sitting in his office and he is discussing, yet again, his former club, Everton.

Jones is the manager of Stockport County, the Emsliegh Insurance League second division club, and his delight — indeed, incredibility — can be imagined when they were drawn to face Everton in the FA Cup third round. He is a born-and-bred Merseysider, and played more than 100 games for the club. He still lives on Merseyside, and his family is split down the middle between red and blue.

It is, he believes, Stockport's biggest game for 30 years, and because of his connections he will give him a testimonial match — those who saw his unfulfilled promise as a player

will wish him well.

"I still love Everton. I was

with Liverpool as a kid but jumped at the chance when I was offered a move to Goodison," he explained. "Now everyone wants to know about it. I understand that, and I'm glad of the publicity for Stockport, but it's not really about me now, is it? It's about the players."

Jones is a football enthusiast, the bedrock on which the lower leagues are built and a man who typifies why some see it as immoral for the first division clubs to attempt to condemn their less powerful partners to oblivion by breaking up the league. Jones has a passion about the game, and a natural focus for attention. After a week of build-up, he is drained.

"I've been asked if I really think we can cause an upset at Goodison. I'll tell you this, if there is anyone who doesn't

tellingly, the state of the game. It is better, he argued, than many critics suggest. His own side proved that when they performed admirably at Aston Villa in the Coca-Cola Cup, before going down 2-0.

It would be a terrible mistake, he believed, if smaller clubs were forced to go part-time because they are the lifeblood of the game, and simply would not survive. The problem for Jones, and every other manager outside the FA Caring Premiership, even for some within it, is that the gap is growing wider.

Inevitably, though, the conversation returns to Everton. He was a player there in the late Seventies, and played in the League Cup final against Aston Villa. Everton lost after two replays, that was nothing

soon after for what was then a handsome fee of £260,000. An England career beckoned after under-23 appearances, and the suggestion, from Don Revie, of a call-up into the senior squad. A knee injury put paid to it all. But he is not bitter, and still plays in the Southport Sunday League.

Despite the attachments, there will not be too much emotion on the return. "I don't want to look back," he said, "although I suppose I'm a bit upset already — I can't play for my Sunday team in the morning."

## Shiel commits himself to Leicester

By DAVID HANNS  
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

RUGBY union's burgeoning transfer market, which has tended towards Newcastle and London so far this season, drifted into the Midlands yesterday when Leicester, the league champions of England, announced their first significant

capture of the open era from Melrose, the new Scottish champions.

Graham Shiel, 25 and capped 15 times by Scotland,

has registered with Leicester, and Tony Russ, the director of rugby at Welford Road, said: "We look forward to playing him next season. He'll be a great addition to our squad."

Shiel, who played against Melrose for the Barbarians last month, will offer badly-needed quality in the Leicester midfield, but their success represents a further blow to Melrose, who are already resigned to losing Doddie Weir to Newcastle and may start to wonder whether they can hang on to Craig Chalmers, the Scotland stand-off half.

He has been connected with various English clubs and, if he believes that Melrose's successful XV is breaking up, may be tempted to renew overtures elsewhere.

Meanwhile, Cardiff will field an unchanged XV in the Heineken Cup final against Toulouse at the Arms Park on Sunday. Their match squad of 22 includes 17 internationals, of whom Jonathan Davies and Nigel Walker are among the replacements.

The Welsh Rugby Union has confirmed the appointment of Terry Cobner to the new post of director of rugby,

based at Cardiff Institute of Higher Education. Cobner,

who won 19 caps for Wales at

flankers between 1974 and 1978

and was the most influential

forward on the 1977 British Isles tour of New Zealand, will leave his teaching post at Oundle next month.

His contract will take him to

the end of the 1999 World Cup, to be hosted by Wales, and puts him at the head of an

expanding empire that in

cludes Kevin Bowring, the

national coach, David Clark,

the national fitness adviser,

and five development officers

— Jonathan Davies, Jonathan Humphreys, Derwyn Jones, Justin Thomas and Gareth Thomas — all of whom play or

played international rugby.

Wasps have successfully appealed to the Rugby Football Union to have their rearranged Courage Clubs Championship match against West Hartlepool on January 13 postponed as Lawrence Dallaglio and Damian Hopley will be on England duty.

CARDIFF: M. Rees, S. Ford, M. Hall, M. Ring, S. Ha, A. Davies, G. Moore, A. Lewis, J. Humphreys, M. Jones, G. Alcock, H. Taylor

### Sport For Television Group Ltd

A REPORT (January 1) on the decision of the British Cycling Federation to appoint its own team to organise the 1996 World Track Championships after failing to agree terms with Sport for Television Group Ltd was inaccurate in some respects.

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Jones, pictured at his Edgeley Park ground, believes Stockport County can pull off an FA Cup surprise. Photograph: Brian Williamson.

## Jones warms to Goodison Park mission

David Maddock on the former Everton player who is looking forward to a dream day for Stockport County



think that they won't be on the bus on Sunday," he said.

"We are a club which is planning for the future. We have a decent stadium, sound finances and good players. We are aiming for the first division, and we should be capable of an upset. When I was at Everton, we were held to a draw by a non-league Altrincham in the Cup — that says everything."

Jones is a genuine man, and everything he says carries conviction. He discusses, in

telligent, the state of the game. It is better, he argued, than many critics suggest. His own side proved that when they performed admirably at Aston Villa in the Coca-Cola Cup, before going down 2-0.

It would be a terrible mistake, he believed, if smaller clubs were forced to go part-time because they are the lifeblood of the game, and simply would not survive. The problem for Jones, and every other manager outside the FA Caring Premiership, even for some within it, is that the gap is growing wider.

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# Gascoigne pays price for showing yellow card

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

PAUL GASCOIGNE'S booking for showing the yellow card to the referee during Rangers' 7-0 victory over Hibernian in a Bell's Scottish League premier division match last Saturday will stay against his name.

Spotting that Dougie Smith, the referee, had dropped his yellow card, Gascoigne booked himself for missing a chance shortly before half-time. Gascoigne had supporters in stitches as he showed himself the card and waved it in the air as he returned it to the official.

There is no right of appeal for Rangers, and the Scottish Football Association (SFA) would not confirm whether Smith will be reprimanded over his decision to book Gascoigne. It is understood that Smith, in his report,



Gascoigne: no reprieve

accused the Rangers player of "ungentlemanly conduct".

An SFA spokesman said: "There is no right of appeal against a caution or a sending-off to the booking stands. It will carry one disciplinary point for the player."

Gascoigne has already served a one-match suspension in Scotland for going over the 16-point disciplinary threshold and received a separate one-match ban for his involvement in the incidents in the match against Aberdeen in November.

The next time he goes over 16 points he will be banned for a further two matches. Only if he fails to reach 16 points over the rest of the season will he escape a ban. Gascoigne was also booked by Les Mottram,

the referee, in the derby with Celtic at Parkhead on Wednesday for a hinging tackle on Tosh McKinlay.

Smith, meanwhile, must wait to hear the SFA's reaction to his humourless display. Officials are still awaiting the referee supervisor's report from the Ibrox match. Jim Farry, the SFA chief executive, said: "We customarily look at the performances of referees through supervisors reports and the referees' executive committee."

"Over the course of a season, an official can expect to be informed of any praise, constructive criticism or criticism which is raised by supervisors. Referees are like anyone else and have good and bad periods but it would be premature to say anything else in this case."

The SFA has already downgraded George McGuire this season for failing to act on an incident at Ibrox involving Alan Lawrence, of Hearts, and Craig Moore, of Rangers.

Gascoigne has another date with authority next Thursday, when the control and disciplinary committee of Uefa, the European governing body, will discuss his red card for two bookings against Borussia Dortmund in the Champions' League on December 6.

Campbell Ogilvie, the Rangers secretary and director, said: "He will receive a one-match automatic ban and then we have to wait and see if that is added to."

Meanwhile, Richard Gough, the Rangers captain, urged his team to press ahead for the title after the 0-0 draw with Celtic, who have two matches in hand but trail by eight points.

"If we carry on putting the points on the board that will go a long way to keeping us right for another year," Gough said.

Rangers have won the title for the past seven seasons and are in hot pursuit of the coveted nine-in-a-row record that was set by Celtic under Jock Stein between 1966 and 1974.

"We have the advantage and now we must turn the screw by winning more games," Gough said.



Dugdale, of Oxford, silhouetted against the winter sky yesterday as he swings smoothly into action at Rye

## Rotheroe supplies driving force

**John Hopkins sees four former winners beaten on the first day of this year's President's Putter**

BENEATH his Oxford blue woolly hat and enveloped in a thick sweater, Charlie Rotheroe looked much like any other young competitor in the President's Putter at Rye yesterday. He wore plus fours, had a caddie and often thrust his hands deep into his pockets to protect them from the biting east wind.

When Rotheroe addressed the ball, he looked so comfortable and correct that it was clear he was a cut above the average golfer. And when he took a driver for his second shot into the strong wind on the 43-yard 3rd, and hit a low, raking shot that reached the putting surface, it became clear that Rotheroe was indeed, quite a golfer.

He has a handicap of plus one at The Berkshire and last year played golf for Oxford — as well as squash and real tennis — while doing a one-year degree course in econom-

ics and political theory. "Charlie's a class player," Steve Seman, his caddie and winner of the Putter in 1994, said. Seman should know. He and Rotheroe had an agreement that the moment one was beaten he would caddie for the other.

"We had hoped we would meet in the third round," Rotheroe said. "We know each other quite well and were both rather looking forward to it. I don't know what Steve was playing at this morning."

What Seman was playing at was three-putting. He did so six times en route to a comprehensive defeat. He was one of four former winners to be

defeated on the first day. Rotheroe had the advantage of a walkover against John Littlewood in the morning and then drew away from Nick Burke, a member at Rye, to win in the afternoon.

Rotheroe's second shot on

the 3rd was only one of a number that underlined his ability. At the 12th, he hit his driver from the fairway and used the same club for his second shot to the 13th. Hitting a driver from tight lies takes both skill and confidence.

It was no big deal to Rotheroe, however. "I lent my three wood to James Martin Jenkins at luncheon," he said. "I knew I wouldn't need

it in the afternoon. I prefer to use my driver from the fairway, anyway."

In his previous 47 consecutive appearances in this event, Peter Gracey, who '74, has rarely had such an unfortunate and unusual ending to one of his matches.

Gracey lost the 11th at Littlestone to Antony Goodrich but won the match when Goodrich conceded because he was in too much pain to continue. "He has got a bad back and had hurt it on the 4th," Gracey said. "At the 11th, he collapsed on the green and for what seemed an age he couldn't move. Then we walked very slowly to the sheds and he rested there while I got a greenkeeper to come out and help him in."

"He sank a whisky-Mac in

the bar and after that he seemed a little better. All in all, though, it was a most unsatisfactory win."

## FOR THE RECORD

WORCESTER WANDERS 4 Stoke City 5  
Second division: Port Vale 1 Sundridge 1  
York 0 2 Middlesbrough 0 Postponed: Bradford City

FA CARLSBERG VASE: Third round:  
second replay: Farns 5 Raunds Town 2  
NORTH SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE: Final:  
10 LA Choppers 54

INTERNATIONAL MATCH: Denmark 74  
Tyskland 76 (in Copenhagen)

FAY CUP: Third round: Boldthorne 1  
0 Manchester City 3 Postponed: Crystal

PARKER: First round: Darlington 1  
0 Queso-Gornall 0 (in S.G.M.C.)

FA PREMIER LEAGUE: Third round: Crystal

Palace 10 Derby 10 La Coruna 2, Rest

Medina 4 Real Valladolid 1 Rest: Betis 0

Super Cup: Paris Saint Germain 3-12

Hutchinson 3-18, England Under-19 197-3

(D.Sales 74, N.Gale 50)

SPANISH LEAGUE: Competitors 1 Sport:

Real Oviedo 0 Deportivo La Coruna 2, Rest

Medina 4 Real Valladolid 1 Rest: Betis 0

City 1 Vega 3 Salamanca 1 Alexio Macia 3-2, Rest: Real Madrid 2 Amorebieta 1

Eibar 1 Real Zaragoza 0

GOLF

PIRE: Oxford and Cambridge Presidents' Putter: First round: B.H. G. Chapman (C) bt

W.D. Moore (C) 1 hole, R.P. Lawton (C) bt

J. Chenevix (C) 2 and 1, C.R. Meacher (C) bt A.R.

Driver (C) 1 hole, D.J. Warden (C) bt P.B.

Marley (C) 3 and 2, M.M. Wilkinson (C) bt R.J.

Martin (C) 1 hole, R.C.P. Seddon (C) bt N.J.

Burke (C) 3 and 2, M.G. Eberl (C) bt J.A.

Skelton (C) 1 hole, R.J. Bassett (C) bt J.A.

Michael Wilford (C) 5 and 4, R.J. Marley (C)

bt P.B. Marley (C) 1 hole, R.F. B. Tew (C) bt J.

R. Guest-Gornall (C) 0 (in S.G.M.C.)

4, T.E. Tew (C) bt D.C. Taylor (C) 1 hole, M.P.

Driver (C) 1 hole, P.J. Parry (C) 3 and 2, C.J.

E. Dryden (C) 1 hole, P.J. Parry (C) 0 (in S.G.M.C.)

5, T.R. Duncanson (C) 0 (in S.G.M.C.)

6, J.P. Gurney (C) 1 hole, J.E. Bonetti (C) who M.S.

Hudson (C) 1 hole, E.J. Barnes (C) 0 (in S.G.M.C.)

7, R.J. Parker (C) 1 hole, J.E. Bonetti (C) 0 (in S.G.M.C.)

8, J. G. Clark (C) 6 and 5, R.W. Dixon (C) bt J.P.

Fairhurst (C) 3 and 2, R.J. Parker (C) 0 (in S.G.M.C.)

9, B. Parry (C) 1 hole, A.J. Murphy (C) 0 (in S.G.M.C.)

10, S. McCullum (C) 0 and 7, D.J. Youngman (C)

bt G. Hunter (C) 3 and 2

11, M. Russell (C) 6 and 5, J. Youngman (C) 0 (in S.G.M.C.)

12, P. Araycock (C) 6-7, D. Rose (C) 0 (in S.G.M.C.)

13, D. Rose (C) 6-7, T.D. Youngman (C) 0 (in S.G.M.C.)

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50,

Stars from the Windy City rise to take basketball by storm again

## Triumvirate on verge of new dynasty



**Oliver Holt** travels to Chicago to watch the three men pulling the strings for the latest Dream Team

**O**ne is a rebel with lime green hair and a pierced scrotum. Then, there is a softly spoken man who wears bookish glasses off the court and plays down his achievements. And, finally, there is the greatest basketball player the world has seen. Together, they have this city in their thrall. Chicago Bulls supporters thought they had seen it all before, but their new "Dream Team" is turning this season into something special, heading for a place in the record books as the best basketball team ever.

When the Bulls demolished the defending National Basketball Association (NBA) champions, Houston Rockets, at the cavernous United Center on Wednesday night in front of their 40,2nd consecutive sell-out crowd, even the most cautious abandoned their doubts. The Bulls have won 26 games this season and lost only three, better than they have ever been at the same stage and firmly on course to establish themselves as the first team to score more than 70 victories in a 62-game year.

The strange one, Dennis Rodman, who used to date Madonna and has stated his desire to play his last NBA game "the buck naked", performed like a man with elastic in his arms. His speciality is rebounding, or retrieving missed shots before the opponents can, and in this skill he is beyond compare.

Against the Rockets, he got 15 rebounds, more than twice anyone else's tally. He has his navel pierced, too, by the way, and his body is covered with tattoos.

"Without a doubt, we have the potential to be better than our previous championship-winning teams," Jordan said. "There is still a long way to go and the team that won those three titles was together for a long period of time. In that team, we knew everybody's moves and we had a good rhythm and continuity. With this team, it is a bit more like search and find. We are still getting to know each other."

### 'It's the Dennis Rodman show on the road'

"But we have been able to sustain our form so far and when we have not played well we have still found a way to win. I am surprised in a way that we have started so well but I think we have earned it. We have played well enough to be where we are and we are going to get better. As far as my game goes, I am happy to be where I am right now. I feel my game is coming back. I feel really comfortable with it."

While he was talking, Rodman loped past, floppy tartan hat hiding his hair, and slouched his way towards his car. He did not give any interviews but then he did not need to. His thoughts on life and basketball, together with nude pictures of him and his girlfriend, are given plenty of space in the American edition of *Playboy* this month. He is also on the front cover of the magazine, *Inside Sports*, which bills its talk with him as, "Dennis Rodman on Sex and Hoops".

Although part of the notorious "Bad Boy" Detroit Pistons early in his career, and who head-butted the San Antonio Spurs' cuddly mascot in his fraught years in Texas, Rodman does not play the rebel on the court. He tucked his shirt into his shorts, ran after the ball to hand it to the referee after he had thrown it away in a fit of pique. His secret lies in the simple realisation that, even though parts of this country fester in appalling violence and poverty, its ultra-conservative residents, and particularly its sports enthusiasts, can still be shocked by something as innocuous as an athlete dying his hair and talking about homosexuality.

In this vein, he is about to release a book called, *As Bad as I Want to Be*. "You know Madonna's book, *Sex*," he said, "it's gonna be more extreme. Like nothing you have ever seen an athlete do. I'm gonna dress like a woman and walk down the main street of Las Vegas. Right in front of the *Mirage*." He is also planning his own talk show, to be called *The Dennis Rodman Show*, in which he will interview his guests in drag.

Behind all this, though, he, too, is a brilliant player. He has won the league's rebounding title for the past four years and many attribute the Bulls' success this year to his signing.

"There is nothing the league can say to Dennis Rodman because I make them too much money," he said. "I bring too much excitement to the game. Michael Jordan used to do that but now it's the Dennis Rodman show on the road waiting for you. The Dennis Rodman system is to go out there and kick somebody's ass. That's the way Dennis Rodman lives. That's his rule, that's my rule."

So far, everything is working to his rule, too. Rodman gets the biggest cheers and nobody really seems to mind. Jordan is a more humble man, now, happy to spread the credit; Pippen is at last getting the recognition he deserves. The omens are good. It is cold in the Windy City this January as the snow blows in off Lake Michigan but inside the United Center, the Bulls are getting hotter.

**American swimming divided by drugs case**

BY CRAIG LORD

**JESSICA FOSCHI**, the New York high school student who returned a positive steroid test last year and has hired a leading lawyer to protest her innocence and contest her punishment, has broken a five-month silence.

Foschi, 15, one of the three leading freestyle distance swimmers in the United States, has told *Swimming World Magazine*: "I have never knowingly taken a steroid or any other banned substance. Not once, not ever."

The review board of United States Swimming (USS) voted 2-1 in favour of placing Foschi on a two-year probation. Bill Stapleton, a lawyer and former Olympian, and Jill Sterkel, also a former Olympian,

agreed on probation, but Jerry Olson, a USS official, wanted to impose a two-year suspension in accordance with international swimming rules.

Carol Zaleski, for USS, will seek to overturn the USS review board decision, in favour of the stiffer penalty of suspension, at a hearing on January 30-31. "How can we call for ever-tougher penalties and then, when it comes to one of our own swimmers, go soft?" she said.

Foschi's family is determined to fight the case for as long as it takes to clear the swimmer's name, and the authorities fear that her case could turn into the sport's equivalent of the Reynolds and Krabbe cases in athletics.

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**Operation puts paid to Parke's title hopes**

BY COLIN MCQUILLAN

**SIMON PARKE**, the Yorkshireman who led England to their first world team squash championship in Cairo last November, will miss the QM national championships next week after an emergency appendectomy on New Year's Day, and Anthony Hill, of Australia, has been sidelined by a five-month silence.

Seeded third behind Peter Nicol, of Scotland, and Del Harris, of Essex, Parke, 23, had targeted the title as a central element of his campaign to succeed Peter Marshall as the leading British player. "I suffered increasing stomach pain through Christmas and eventually I had to admit it was not from overeating," Parke said yesterday.

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boost  
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# Guilt, convictions and errors of judgment

**I**t is hard to dislike a man who looks exactly like Mike McShane. However, when he is a Mississippi dentist who appears as a dodgy expert witness at murder trials, and declares himself on a mission from God "to fight this battle, win or lose", he may stop looking harmless.

Michael H. West was the subject of last night's first *Traces of Guilt* (BBC2). His special forensic technique is to scan human flesh with a blue light machine, locate invisible marks, and then draw incriminating conclusions about bite wounds. In the case of the convicted Tony Keko in Louisiana — now a forensic science landmark — Dr West's expert testimony appears to be the only evidence that condemned Keko. But is his blue-light method reliable?

A juicy start to a series about forensic science, then. In America, the forensic community was shown engaged in heated debate —

well, four big men arguing around a small table at a convention, drinking glasses of water through straws (to avoid lip-prints?). Meanwhile the languishing Tony ("Innocent") Keko pushed his cuffed wrists pathetically through bars; his girlfriend wiped her mascara and vowed to stand by her man: his defence lawyer spoke of injustice with tears in his startled eyes.

Impartiality is evidently not a requirement of film-makers, especially where bad law is the subject. By the end of *Traces of Guilt*, the viewer had been encouraged to regard Keko as the Arthur Fowler of the 18th state and West as a dangerous loose cannon. West's evidence the only cause of this verdict? Trial by television is the phrase that springs to mind.

**W**hen experts disagree, it's funny how the world changes when you watch something with a value system as simple as *The Ver's*. All I want today is for someone to phone up and say, "You're a bloody good vet, Lynne, don't ever forget that". The happy result of the plot last night was that Jennifer (Burden) and her little vet-bloke (Richard Hawley) were both vindicated as good vets; but the suspected old, bad vet, played with considerable dignity by Frederick Treves, was also proved to be a good vet, after all. Blame resided in an unscrupulous horse dealer. Yet despite his vindication, Treves decided to retire from vetting. Not knowing whether he was a good vet or a bad vet was proving a strain.

The appeal of *The Ver* is mysterious when its heart are two short, sanctimonious people who never make mistakes. Yet one continues to watch, somehow — perhaps because, as they scramble energetically for the moral (ie, veterinary) high ground, they occasionally boot each other in the face.

**R**EVIEW  
  
Lynne Truss

Jen, take my word for it," all seemed right with the world. "It wasn't a question of right and wrong, Walter," the little vet-bloke then assured an older, taller vet-bloke. "It was a difference of opinion, that's all." But more errors of judgment ensued (a horse reared in traffic a girl knocked her bones) and the little vet-bloke was puzzled. "He's too good a vet, Jen," he mused.

It's funny how the world changes when you watch something with a value system as simple as *The Ver's*. All I want today is for someone to phone up and say, "You're a bloody good vet, Lynne, don't ever forget that". The happy result of the plot last night was that Jennifer (Burden) and her little vet-bloke (Richard Hawley) were both vindicated as good vets; but the suspected old, bad vet, played with considerable dignity by Frederick Treves, was also proved to be a good vet, after all. Blame resided in an unscrupulous horse dealer. Yet despite his vindication, Treves decided to retire from vetting. Not knowing whether he was a good vet or a bad vet was proving a strain.

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businessmen as public entertainment, like King Lear with spondulicks. Rater's story works well as tragedy because his own personality was his undoing — arrogance, obstinacy and an endearing openness combined to make his fortune and also to destroy it. On camera now, his wariness came over as petulance; and in snooker-room scenes alongside his large bald father, he looked almost pathetic.

And he has the right to feel sore. After he made the famous "crap" joke — which was quite funny — customers not only stopped buying from Raters; they actually brought things back. In a night of questionable judgments, this was surely the most extraordinary of all. "Oo-er, this is real crap!" people cried aloud, apparently — as they looked at their Raters' crystal decanter set, and then at the price tag (£4,99), and saw it in a completely new light.

BBC1

- 6.00am Business Breakfast (65747)
- 7.00 BBC Breakfast News (92336414)
- 9.05 Kirroy (755704)
- 10.00 News (Ceefax), regional news and weather (4389619)
- 10.05 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (s) (6574840)
- 10.30 Good Morning with Anne and Nick (s) (62582)
- 12.00 News (Ceefax), regional news and weather (6610521) 12.05pm Pebble Mill Special: Doris Day. Another chance to see Gloria Hunniford's interview with Doris Day at her home in Carmel (r) (s) (9658327) 12.50 Regional News and weather (13653582)
- 1.00 One O'Clock News (Ceefax) and weather (99105)
- 1.30 Neighbours (Ceefax) (s) (54622308)
- 1.50 Banacek. Detective series (2907853)
- 3.05 Timekeepers (s) (5082037)
- 3.30 The Littlest Pet Shop (5870853) 3.55 Look Sharp! (230360) 4.10 The All New Poppy Show (s) (285327) 4.20 Julia Jeffery and Helen Hyde (Ceefax) (s) (210259) 4.35 The Mask (1/2) (Ceefax) (s) (96585785)
- 4.55 Newsround Extra (Ceefax) (6736650)
- 5.10 Blue Peter (Ceefax) (7955850)
- 5.35 Neighbours (r) (Ceefax) (s) (952111)
- 6.00 Six O'Clock News (Ceefax) and weather (969)
- 6.30 Regional News magazines (921)
- 7.00 FILM: Cop and a Half (1992). With Burt Reynolds and Norman D. Golden II. Comedy in which an eight-year-old boy who wants to be a policeman witnesses a serious crime. He will not speak unless he is allowed to accompany the force on the investigation. The police have no choice but to comply and seasoned plainclothes detective Nick McKenna is given the job of being the boy's "partner". Directed by Henry Winkler (s) (10360)
- 8.30 A Question of Sport. Bill Beaumont and Jan Botham captain two teams of sporting celebrities answering questions put to them by David Coleman (Ceefax) (s) (6679)
- 9.00 Nine O'Clock News (Ceefax) regional news and weather (7389)
- 9.30 FILM: Backdraft (1991). With Kurt Russell and William Baldwin. A visually powerful drama about two fire-fighting brothers who fight a long-running lead as often as they do the suspicious fires breaking out all over town. Directed by Ron Howard (Ceefax) (9451221)



The singer Annie Lennox in concert (11.40pm)

11.40 Annie... In the Park. The now solo singing star Annie Lennox's return to the stage after six years — her previous outings had been as one of the Eurythmics — recorded live last September in Central Park, New York (s) (678227)

12.40am FILM: Midnight Fever (1991) with August West and David Carradine. A teenage girl's vacation at a country farm is ruined, first by a seemingly harmless fellow student who hopes to seduce her, and then by a pair of violent strangers warned by the police. Directed by Bill Crain (2469341)

2.05 Weather (2855506)

BBC2

- 7.00am Breakfast News (Signing) (6671327)
- 7.15 Lassie (r) (3795106) 7.40 Stone Protectors (r) (7642360) 8.05 The Really Wild Show (r) (Ceefax) (s) (5802476)
- 8.35 FILM: Tall in the Saddle (1944, b/w) starring John Wayne. A misnomer arrives at a ranch to take a foreman's job and discovers his bosses are women. Directed by Edwin L. Marin (6776414)
- 10.00 Playdays (6573211)
- 10.25 FILM: Condemned Women (1938, b/w) starring Sally Eilers and Louis Hayward. Women's prison melodrama, directed by Lew Landers (s) (9003259)
- 11.40 The Fugitive (r) (Ceefax) (1958766)
- 12.30pm Working Lunch (15056) 1.05 William's Wish Wellingtons (7963105) 1.05 Johnson And Friends (r) (2847783)
- 1.15 FILM: Windom's Way (1957) starring Peter Finch. A doctor acts as reluctant mediator in a dispute between Malayan workers and the owners of a plantation. Directed by Ronald Neame (29111259)
- 3.00 News (Ceefax), regional news and weather, followed by Sport On Friday: the first quarter-final of the World Professional Darts Championship. Including at 3.55 News and weather (780143)
- 6.00 The Munsters (b/w), (Ceefax) (997230)
- 6.25 The New Avengers. Cult special agent adventures. (Ceefax) (347037)
- 7.15 Kicking and Screaming (r) (Ceefax) (s) (630679)
- 8.00 Top Gear Motorsport. Tony Mason reports on rallying's Race of Champions. (Ceefax) (s) (8414)



Helen Yemm (front) and gardeners (8.30pm)

- 8.30 **CHOICE** Gardening from Scratch: Down to Earth and Potting Up. (Ceefax) (s) (7921)
- 9.00 **NEW** Rab C Nesbit. The Glasgow philistine returns (Ceefax) (s) (8259)
- 9.30 The Fast Show (r) (Ceefax) (s) (8252)
- 10.00 **NEW** The Rest McCoy. The sketch show featuring some of the best of Britain's black comedians. (Ceefax) (s) (88414)
- 10.30 Newsnight (Ceefax) (795540)
- 11.15 Fantasy Football League (148230)
- 11.45 Weather (832853)
- 11.50 1996 World Professional Darts Championship (s) (121132)
- 12.50am FILM: The Double Life of Veronique (1991). An enchanting film about two women whose lives are inextricably intertwined. Starring Irene Jacob and Halina Gryszkiewicz. Directed by Krzysztof Kieslowski in Polish with English subtitles (729235). Ends at 2.25

Videophax+ and the Video PlusCode. The numbers next to each TV programme tell you what video PlusCode numbers, which allow you to programme your video recorder instantly via telephone. To record a programme, dial the video PlusCode number, then dial the video PlusCode for the programme you wish to record. For more details call Videophax on 0898 731304 (0161 202 8999) or Videoplus on 0898 731305 (0161 202 8999). Call 0898 731304 or 0898 731305. Payment when (UK) 5.99. VHS £11.99. PAL £14.99. NTSC £19.99. PAL + NTSC £24.99. VHS + NTSC £29.99. PAL + PAL + NTSC £34.99. PAL + NTSC + NTSC £39.99. PAL + PAL + NTSC + NTSC £44.99.

VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCode

VARIATIONS

3.30 Murders, She Wrote (8415659) 3.45-4.00 Home & Leisure (211475) 12.20pm Home and Away (6482029) 6.05-7.00 Morden Tonight (10507) 2.10pm Film A Touch of Laney (753709) 2.50pm Spuds Run Wild (5575032) 8.00pm The Village Show (77554)

4.30-4.45 Music (2501232) 8.30-8.45 The Weather (2855506)

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PLAYING FOR POCKET  
MONEY WITH KING  
OF THE GREEN BAIZE

# SPORT

FRIDAY JANUARY 5 1996

## FOOTBALL 32

LAKE CALLS TIME  
ON A CAREER  
BLIGHTED BY INJURY

South Africa's day of triumph scarred by controversy and disciplinary action

## England collapse proves final

FROM ALAN LEE  
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT  
IN CAPE TOWN

**NEWLANDS** (third day of five): South Africa beat England by ten wickets

IT ENDED in a rout, which was as misleading as the controversy that accompanied it. England, having competed on equal terms with South Africa for four inconclusive games, were blown away inside three days of the decider, revisited by the batting inadequacies that have sabotaged four consecutive overseas missions.

England collapses have long since lost their rarity and yesterday's was familiar in its awfulness. An hour into the afternoon they were rallying at 138 for four, 47 runs ahead. Fifty minutes later they were all out, the last six wickets having fallen for 19 runs in ten overs.

Amid the decline lay an incident to sour the spirit in which this series has been played, a crucial run-out that was poorly umpired throughout and featured dissent and intimidation presenting the South Africa captain, Hansie Cronje, in an unhappy light. It resulted in Graham Thorpe's departure, for a positive and defiant half-century, and with him went England's lingering hopes.

That South Africa's openers disdainfully picked off the 67 runs required for victory in barely an hour was no more than could be expected, for England were a broken reed. Their indignity was exemplified when Devon Malcolm, a hapless figure throughout this match, took up a text-book fielding position on the long-leg boundary and allowed the ball to run past his knee for four.

South Africa's victory, their first in a home series against England since 1931, was not undeserved. Even before this match, they had created winning positions in each of the two games not spoilt by the weather. England, by contrast, had not come within sight of a victory. But there was little enough between the teams for the margin here to be utterly unexpected.

It was England's third three-day Test defeat in little more than 12 months and, as in Melbourne in December of 1994 and at Edgbaston last summer, a low-scoring game

on a poor surface exposed frailties of technique and temperament. Here at Newlands, they could have no excuse. Winning the toss gave them a significant advantage and they spurned it by being bowled out inside five hours. Test matches are seldom won from such inept beginnings.

The admirable work of the bowlers — specifically of Dominic Cork and Peter Martin — redeemed a good deal and one can only speculate on the psychological impact of the last-wicket stand that extended South Africa's lead from 18 to 91. Perhaps the real key to the result was that Michael Atherton, the outstanding

player on either side, scored only ten runs in the match. It may say little for the rank-and-file, but without their leader, England were doomed.

Two more wickets fell in the first half-hour yesterday. Stewart, whose technique is in need of overhaul, turned a short ball from Pollock inches wide of short leg and, to the next ball, walked outside of stumps, giving Cullinan catching practice at first slip. Then Fraser, the nightwatchman, having already survived two chances off Allan Donald, fended a lifting ball to backshort leg. It was not clear whether the ball had hit bat, glove or arm.

Adams, the bowler, leads appeals for a run-out against Thorpe, who thought he had survived when the umpire, Orchard, ruled in his favour

turned on his heel without waiting for a verdict.

The first crucial umpiring decision of the day had to be made an hour later, and it went against England. Thorpe and Robin Smith had batted without inhibitions to add 44 when Smith faced Paul Adams. Pushing forward to the googly, he tucked his bat behind his pad, out of harm's way so he thought. But the appeal, as the ball turned and was taken by wicketkeeper Richardson, was immediately upheld by umpire Orchard, for whom this was not to be an auspicious day.

Graeme Hick, initially all at sea against Adams and Brian

McMillan, came out after lunch a changed man. He punched a tour and two against Donald to take England ahead and then drove Adams for two successive straight sixes. There has been little enough attractive batting in the series for this to be a memorable interlude and the sight of Cronje instantly dropping out two deep fielders encouraged the notion that England might be shedding their chains.

The pitch was not malicious, merely variable in pace and bounce, and once two players of pedigree were established on it, batting could look deceptively straightforward. The

England

dressing-room was

doubtless

contemplating

a lead of something over 150

when Shaun Pollock returned to win the game.

Pollock, as much a find for South Africa's future as Adams has been, took four wickets in his final spell but it was the first that was crucial. Hick, in full flow, was leg-before to one that kept uncomfortably low. It ended a stand worth 72, easily the best in either England innings, and all hope of further prolonged resistance was destroyed when Jack Russell, uncharacteristically loose, steered Pollock to gully four balls later.

Quite apart from its sundry implications, Thorpe's run-out was needless, for it was a risky single to short fine leg, where Hudson's pick-up and throw were immaculate. As has occurred so often when England collapse, nobody was now capable of arresting the slide. Watkinson was Adams's fourth victim of the match and Cork and Martin were out to strokes of hopeless bravado.

Atherton was left to console and cajole his shattered players and to put a brave face on his own dismay. This was a series England believed they would win; but they simply were not good enough.

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